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CAPITAL REPORTER

Scott Summers

RALEIGH. — The legislature got out its heavy artillery last week, and when the shooting had cleared just about everybody could claim at least a partial victory of some kind or other.

To start things off Senator Junius Powell of Columbus and 37 other members of the upper house co-signed a bill nanning cities another \$5,000,000 for street buildings.

The bill calls for the money to come from money on hand in the highway fund and is in addition to the \$2,500,000 recommended for city streets by the Advisory Budget Commission.

This move was considered a slap at Governor Scott who has told the League of Municipalities that he is opposed to the granting of new funds without new income. The League was expected to have a bill introduced calling for an extra one-half cent gasoline tax and upping of the license fee by \$5. This would bring in an estimated eight to ten million dollars, which is what the governor and highway estimators figure it would cost the state a year to assume full responsibility for city street paving and upkeep.

It was rumored around Raleigh this weekend, however, that the victory was not as clearcut as it might appear—with 38 signers. Some senators reportedly were considering withdrawing their names from the bill. Others said that as far as they were concerned their signing the bill had nothing to do with the governor's approval or disapproval—they just don't want any more taxes.

But unless somebody does some tall switching around, it seems self-evident that the new taxes will not be passed—perhaps such a bill will not even be introduced.

Ironically, the League of Municipalities will be getting exactly what it wanted to ask for in the first place. League leaders figured they could ask for \$5,000,000 this time and come back for a "second helping" in 1953. Governor Scott, however, told them to take a shot at the works if they wanted his support, maintaining that there would not be enough money to give more to the cities if additional revenue was not forthcoming. He pointed out the needs for reworking the State's badly deteriorating primary road system, particularly in the expensive and much-needed realm of bridge-widening.

But the no-tax boys seem to have won the first round, at any rate.

On the State Fair Coliseum front, the fighting went a little differently. Approval of continuation of the \$1,347,000 building was generally termed an administration victory.

But when you consider the out that the special legislative committee took, this might not appear to be so. The committee recommended that the building go on, since it already was contracted for and likely would cost the State up to a quarter of a million dollars to cancel the contract. Had the committee recommended that, it would have been in the position of suggesting that the State pay some \$250,000 for nothing but the one hole in the ground already dug as a part of the foundation.

The Senate routed it right on through, but in the House several had their say against their measure. Rep. C. Wayland Spruill of Bertie called the committee report "whitewash." Rep. Edwin P. Wake, one of the introducers of the measure calling for the probe and a committee member, let it be distinctly understood he did not agree with the committee majority. He called for a roll call vote, and the count was a lopsided 98 to 18 approval of the committee's recommendation.

The various auto inspection bills died an unnatural death, strangled in committee. That ap-

parently was a win for the home folks who, at a public hearing, let it be distinctly understood that they wanted no part of a return of auto inspection lanes.

The House Roads Committee expressed himself privately as favoring inspection. "But," he said, "if I voted for any kind of an inspection bill I'd just as well not go home. They'd run me out of the county."

Liquor, schools and roads have been termed three perennial headaches for legislators. And they were assured that this session would be no different. The city streets bill kept the roads problem warm, the United Forces for Education got in their licks for the school, and 29 members of the House signed an all-wet or all-dry referendum bill.

The bill—sent up by Rep. Walter Crissman of Guilford—called for a state-wide vote November 6 on liquor, wine and beer. If the wets got a majority all three would be sold in every county in the State. A dry win would make sale of all illegal in every county.

Some seven measures introduced in both House and Senate were passed over the Joint Appropriations Committee without action. That came after adoption of a resolution offered by Senator Grady Rankin of Gaston calling for the Assembly not to fix the teachers' salary schedule but to leave it up to the State Board of Education.

The seven bills would: Fix a \$2,400 to \$3,600 salary scale for A-certificated teachers; put teachers on a 10-month pay basis and principals on an 11-month pay basis; appropriate some \$424,000 a year to hire compulsory attendance officers; reduce the teacher load from 32 to 30; buy needed school buses, give teachers' 10 days' sick leave a year; provide clerical help in the offices of principals.

All told the extra cost would be about \$18,000,000 a year.

Add to this the "extras" asked for in the first week of joint appropriations hearings (almost \$15,000,000) and you come up with some fancy figures for an Assembly that wants to hold down taxes and spending.

One legislator has predicted that some \$80,000,000 will be added to the General Fund budget when the lawmakers get through adding and patching it up. The Advisory Budget Commission recommended a total of \$303,000,000 for the General Fund spending, but did not provide any pay raises for teachers nor did it recommend even continuing the present teaching load.

That has drawn the ire of just about everyone connected with education forces and very likely will be changed before the session is over.

One of the items the Agriculture Department will seek to get back in the budget February 15 when its hearing is slated before the Joint Appropriations Committee is a Northeastern North Carolina Peanut Test Farm.

The total appropriation would be for slightly more than \$100,000 for the two years—\$77,945 for 1951-52 and \$22,245 for 1952-53.

Agriculture Commissioner L. Y. Ballentine said that there is a definite need for the test farm in the heart of the peanut section.

"We're asking for increases where there is a real need and this item is one of them," he said.

The Advisory Budget Commission cut the entire item out because it was classed as a permanent improvement. Fifty-five thousand dollars of the appropriation for the first year would go for land purchase and betterments.

The test station now used for peanuts is in an entirely different soil section, Ballentine explained, so that it is impossible to test possible peanut strain under real growing condition.

This Man Has Lots Of Tax Trouble

The High Point Beacon tells the story of a young High Pointer, vacationing on the coast of North Carolina, who some time ago wrote his Dad a note in which he told his father he needed a little more cash. The father responded with the following letter:

"In reply to your present request to send a check, I wish to inform you that the present condition of my bank account makes it impossible. My shattered financial condition is due to federal laws, state laws, county laws, city laws, corporation laws, liquor laws, mother-in-laws, brother-in-laws, sister-in-laws, and outlaws.

"Through these laws, I am expected to pay a business tax, sewer tax, parking meter tax, amusement tax, head tax, school tax, gas tax, light tax, sales tax, liquor tax, carpet tax, income tax, food tax, furniture tax, and excise tax. Even my brains are taxed. I am required to get a business license, car license, hunting and fishing license, truck license, and dog license.

"I am also required to contribute to every society and organization which the genius of man is capable of bringing to life; to

women's relief, the unemployment relief, and the gold-digger's relief. Also to every hospital and charitable organization in the city including the Red Cross, the Black Cross, the Purple Cross, and the Double Cross.

"For my own safety I am required to carry life insurance, property insurance, liability insurance, burglar insurance, accident insurance, business insurance, tornado insurance, unemployment insurance, old-age and fire insurance.

"My business is so governed that it is no easy matter for me to find out who owns it. I am protected, expected, disrespected, rejected, dejected, examined, re-examined, informed, required, summoned, fined, commanded and compelled until I provide inexhaustible supply of money for every known need of the human race.

"Simply because I refuse to donate to something or other I am boycotted, talked about, lied about, held up, held down, and robbed until I am almost ruined.

"The only reason I am clinging to life at all is to see what the hell is coming next."

CONCORD BANK

Officials Promoted
Concord (Special) — Concord National bank created a new administrative organization by promoting a number of its officers and electing A. G. Odell, who has been president, to the chairmanship of its board of directors.

J. S. Foster, who has been executive vice president since coming to the bank October 1, 1948, was elected president and trust officer. Also promoted are L. D. Coltrane, 3rd, from cashier to vice president and secretary; Miss Lela Bruton, from assistant cashier to cashier and assistant trust officer; and Linley R. (Bill) Miller, to assistant cashier.

Directors of the bank were re-elected.

Stockholders of the bank, at their annual meeting approved increase of capital stock of the bank from \$100,000 to \$200,000, by transfer of \$100,000 from undivided profits to the capital account and issuance of a \$100,000 stock dividend to shareholders.

The financial statement of the bank, as of last December 30, shows capital stock, \$100,000; surplus, \$400,000; reserve \$100,000; reserve for dividends payable \$6,000; and deposits, \$5,826,546.84. Total liabilities are \$6,844,102.65.

HOME FURNISHINGS

Over 12 Billion For '50

Total retail dollar volume of the home furnishings industry, including television, radio and electrical appliances, exceeded \$12,000,000,000 last year, according to unofficial but authoritative estimates. This topped 1949 by \$1,000,000,000 and equaled the previous record year, 1948.

No informed industry leader expects this year's volume to come close to 1950 for several reasons. First, production of so-called "big ticket" (heavy profit) items like major appliances and television receivers will drop appreciably because of the increased tempo of industrial mobilization. Steel, copper, aluminum, nickel and other vital materials will be siphoned away from output of refrigerators, washers, television and radio receivers to war production.

Secondly, drastic restrictions on consumer credit are bound to cut purchases considerably. In mid-October the Federal Reserve Board amended its Regulation W governing consumer credit purchases. A 15 per cent down payment with fifteen months to pay was required for furniture and floor coverings and 25 per cent down and fifteen months to pay on major appliances and television receivers.

Obedient

At the conclusion of the afternoon Scripture lesson, teacher said, "Now, then, stand up all

Employees Start Anti-Waste Drive

A photograph showing \$4,500 in coin going down a drain was used by a manufacturer to dramatize for employees the annual cost of one form of waste—safety glasses lost or damaged through carelessness.

Other photographs in the picture story published in the plant magazine, focussed attention on some of the more common ways in which the safety glasses were broken or mislaid.

Employee cooperation was solicited on the basis that, with keen price competition developing, waste handicapped the company in selling its product.

AFL WELCOMES PETRILLO TO A SEAT, AS VICE PRESIDENT

Miami.—The AFL Executive Council welcomed James C. Petrillo, president American Federation of Musicians, when he came here January 23 to take his seat as the 13th vice president.

Mr. Petrillo, 58, was elected at the mid-winter council meeting to the vacancy caused by the death of his predecessor as president of the musicians and A. F. L. Vice President Joseph N. Weber.

The new vice president was born in 1892 in Chicago. He learned to play a cornet given him by Jane Addams, founder of Hull House. As a boy he sold newspapers, operated an elevator and peddled popcorn and peanuts on Northwestern trains.

Through his playing in a Chicago band, he became active in the local musicians' union. He was elected vice president in 1920 and president in 1922 of the Chicago Musicians' Union, a position he still holds.

Mr. Petrillo became president of the American Federation of Musicians in 1940 upon the retirement of Mr. Weber. His union paid per capita tax on 258,600 members last year.

He has served as a member of the Chicago Park board and in 1935 inaugurated the free Grant Park concerts in that city which brought Chicago to the musical attention of the world.

He has been the innovator of many other steps to spread the enjoyment of music among increasing millions of people and at the same time provided employment and raising the working and living standards of union members.

those children who wish to go to Heaven."

All the scholars rose—with the exception of Tommy Brown.

"But, surely, Tommy," Teacher said surprised, "you want to go to Heaven?"

"Oh, yes, Miss," Tommy said, "but Mother said I was to be sure and go straight home from school!"

TOBIN EXPANDS LIST OF CRITICAL OCCUPATIONS

Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin announced that the list of critical occupations has been expanded by adding three occupations and by extending the field of coverage of six occupational definitions contained in the original list released August 3, 1950.

The three occupations added are:

- 1—Metal miner, underground, all around.
- 2—Orthopedic appliance and limb technician.
- 3—Sawsmith.

The following occupational definitions have been expanded:

- 1—Engineer, chief, marine. This definition has been expanded to cover first, second, and third assistant marine engineers.
- 2—Master, ship. Expanded to cover ship pilots and mates.
- 3—Engineer, electrical. Expanded to include experts who design and develop complex x-ray equipment.
- 4—Electronic technician. Also expanded to cover experts engaged in servicing complex x-ray equipment.
- 5—Model maker. Expanded to include ship model makers.
- 6—Patternmaker. Now includes patternmakers employed in shipyards.

Tobin said that metal miners now covered by the list perform a significant combination of duties involved in underground mining, including the drilling of rock, the handling of explosives, and the sinking of shaft. The occupation is considered one of the most exacting and hazardous in mining operations.

Orthopedic appliance and limb technicians, usually employed in small shops, were placed on the list because their number is very limited and insufficient to keep up with the current demand for orthopedic appliances and services.

The definition of sawsmith is meant to cover only those sawsmiths employed in the manufacture of industrial saws. There is a very small number of workers engaged in the occupation.

Since the list of critical occupations was released last August 3, only six new occupations have been added and the field of coverage has been expanded only in the case of eight occupational definitions. Secretary Tobin said, however, that the object is not to keep occupations off the list but to include only those which can be truly considered as critical to defense production and minimum requirements of civilian economy.

The list of critical occupations is used by the Department of Defense in considering requests for deferment of reservist and members of the National Guard. Changes are made in the list by Secretary Tobin upon recommendations of the Commerce-Labor Joint Committee on Essential Activities and Critical Occupations. Representatives of the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, and Defense, and the Selective Service System serve as advisors on the committee.

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 Seabees Reserve.

'Bad Press' For Unions Fault Of Its Leadership

By PHIL VARKER
Secretary-Treasurer, New Brunswick Typographical Union

I was greatly interested in the news story in a recent issue of The Labor Herald in which the shortcomings of union leaders as public relations men were emphasized. That issue of The Labor Herald came out at the time I was ready to pop-off over my own troubles in conducting a labor column in the local newspaper. I would like to quote, in part, something I wrote at that time:

"This column was sold to the newspaper management on the basis that labor had no opportunity to be heard, that the newspapers gave but one side of labor disputes—that of management.

"There are upwards of a hundred unions in the circulation area of this newspaper, yet there has been many weeks in the past two years of this column when so little labor news was received that it has been necessary to use reprint material.

"Newspapers had much to say about the recent strike of the telephone communication workers. There was a great 'viewing with alarm' by the Bell Telephone people. But nowhere in the newspapers was there anything about how the workers felt. They made no effort to get their story before the public. It was only through the good services of a member of another union that this column was able to print the workers' story.

"The bus drivers came out for a wage increase and other improvements on the old contract. Public Service Transport at once appeared in newspapers with its tale of woe. What the drivers think, no one knows. They have made no effort to use this column.

"And so it goes, with these instances but two of many which could be cited to show that labor refuses to use a means of telling its story in this column, a space which labor has been told repeatedly it should call its own. And because of this lack of appreciation of the column by labor it may be taken back by the publisher for better use."

Since the above was written, the column has been killed, and the writer looks back to his two years as a labor columnist with considerable bitterness. Those 24 months have shown me this:

Labor has relied so much on the good will of the paternalistic federal government in the last 20 years, that it seems to feel its gains are secured by divine right.

The economic royalists which the late revered Franklin D. Roosevelt held up to public criticism, have their counterparts in those of the labor movement, who view labor disputes as only between management and labor. The public is considered to be a vague, impersonal thing which, if affected adversely by wage increases, must accept the change in the price of things produced by labor without protest.

The "public be damned" philosophy ascribed to an economic royalist of years ago, finds labor receiving the same abuse as did the tory condemned for the above statement.

And, why? The answer is clear. It is why my weekly column died. It is why the public is willing to believe the worst about labor unions. It is the unconcern of the average unionist about what the public thinks; the unconcern of the labor leader whose responsibility it is to see that the public knows the truth, yet falls down on the job.

During the 25 years I have served my local as an officer and, in particular, during the short life of my labor column, I have visited many unions. I have listened to minutes read and reports of committee chairmen which show many things done for the public interest.

I have sat in those meetings and been thrilled with pride in that I, as a member of a union, had a part indirectly in these good things. Yet this good that was done, and which the public should know about, seldom reached the public's eye. In far too many cases the

fault has been with union officers. That they, as officers, represent the greatest welfare movement on earth seems not to be within their understanding; that they owe it to their union to do all they can—use all honest means—to make it a militant part of that movement, at least in disclosing its worthy acts through the public print, seems not to be in their power to understand or accept.

Day after day, week after week, they plod along, following the same lines as their predecessors. They are unable, or refuse to understand, that times have changed with the Taft-Hartley millstone around labor's neck. They refuse to do anything about showing the public that there is an organization of honest, upright citizens who have the utmost concern about the large part they play in the economy of the nation and the world.

Repeatedly the writer has been told by union leaders that they didn't want publicity even though it was necessary to use their names in publicizing their unions. Why? They hedged and gave no straightforward answer. Their reply would be, if they were honest: "I am running for re-election."

That is the measure of such men and the measure of their unionism, a union affiliation measured only by dollars and cents. "Card men" who just belong.

Unionism is a religion to many in the movement. There are those who have died as martyrs to the cause. Small indeed are those who put personal ambitions, a desire to remain in officer rank, above their duty to perpetuate the memory of those who have gone before without hope of gain for self.

Who are they; who are we, to give less than our best at all times to the movement for which such as Samuel Gompers and nameless others, less known, gave their all?

If organized labor is to fulfill its destiny—achieve real individual democracy in this nation—its leadership on the local and national levels will have to measure up to the militant ideals of its founding fathers, less the upsurge of reaction eventually destroy what has been built through sacrifice during the past century for the toilers of this Republic.—New Jersey Labor Herald, January, 1951.

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.

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.