

CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

VOL. XX; NO. 44

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1951

Subscription Price \$2.00 Year



CAPITAL REPORTER

Scott Summers

RALEIGH, N. C. — Back to the Hamilton Bill for a minute. It aroused a lot of opposition among senators who said they were opposed to "private legislation."

Senator J. Hawley Poole of Moore introduced an amendment cutting out section 1, which affected Hamilton, making it a general measure about deciding judges' retirement on disability.

But lawyers in the Senate—led by Senator Rivers Johnson of Duplin, who pleaded poverty for Hamilton—beat down the Poole amendment.

Senator Marvin Leatherman of Lincoln opposed section 1 of the Hamilton bill on the grounds that he could not see "handing this man this money after what I've seen this morning at Dix Hill (the State Hospital at Raleigh). Leatherman and several other senators had made an unscheduled tour of the mental institution.

"I can't see taking money that would improve the lot of those people out there and giving it to one man," Leatherman said.

"Besides, people at home are suspicious of special legislation passed by lawyers for lawyers, and I can't help voting against this section."

But they were voices crying in the wilderness. With 31 lawyers in the upper chamber, the bill passed the Senate with a two-to-one majority. Several of the legal members implied they could not afford to vote against the bill for fear it would prejudice judges against them.

"And you can't afford to have the judge prejudiced against you when you're trying an important case," one of them said.

Burl Hardison of Craven has tossed in a bill to prevent establishment of a restaurant in the new Highway Building. Ostensibly it is a bill to "keep state agencies from competing with private business," but its admitted aim is to stop the restaurant.

Plans for the Highway Building call for placing of electric and other outlets in the basement so that a restaurant could be put there. Dr. Henry Jordan, chairman of the Highway Commission, said it was done so that — sometime in the future the space might be leased to a private operator to put a restaurant there. The N. C. Restaurant Association has been fighting the idea, calling it a foot in the door for putting restaurants in all State buildings, terming it competition with private enterprise, and threatening suit if it is carried out.

The Hardison bill would end all the argument by outlawing restaurants in State buildings.

But the way it is drawn, there is a possibility that it will prohibit ice skating shows and other entertainment features at the N. C. State College Coliseum.

When this was pointed out to him, Hardison was quick to say that the bill would be amended to exempt the State College Coliseum, if it was needed to make it clear that the bill did not apply to the big hall.

One of the representatives almost had heart failure recently. It was the Saturday of the Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner here.

This lawmaker invited one of the House clerks to have lunch with him. She refused, pleading a prior engagement, but told him she would be glad to go out to dinner with him that evening.

The lawmaker's jaw dropped, as he added two \$50 Jefferson-Jackson plates and ran into a \$100 bite out of his bankroll.

He quickly withdrew the invitation.

One of the battle cries when the Legislature convened a month and a half ago was "we've got to do something about the slaughter on the highways." Bills by the score on highway safety have been tossed in the hopper with gay abandon.

But the only thing done about

any of them to date is to kill 'em. They buried motor vehicle inspection. And this week they embalmed a measure that would have made it mandatory to put all drunken drivers in jail for at least five days.

Apparently some of the imbibing members of the General Assembly were afraid they might get caught behind the wheel with an alcoholic breath.

Speaking of alcoholic breath, it is amazing how many legislators who staunchly vote dry are not averse to a little nig for themselves.

Back in 1943, a representative from one of the western counties made a powerful speech against the "evils of likker." He turned on the volume, too, so that his roars of rage against drink rattled the windows.

The effect of his speech on his colleagues was not as potent as it might have been, however, due to the fact that he was so drunk he had to hold on to his desk to keep from falling down.

Some legislators do not like to let the folks back home know what they are doing. Happily, they are in the minority.

Several lawmakers have been telling the home folks that they are going along with all of the governor's recommendations made in his address to the Legislature, when just the opposite is true.

Kerr Scott is a little irked at these boys — one of whom has made several trips to the governor's office to pledge his co-operation—because the record shows that they have voted against him at every opportunity thus far.

PRODUCTION SLOWDOWN BEHIND IRON CURTAIN, ICTU TELLS TRUMAN

WASHINGTON. — Workers in countries behind the Iron Curtain are deliberately slowing down production, President Truman was told January 16 by a world trade union leader.

The information came from J. H. Oldenbroek, general secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, who headed a labor delegation to see Truman. "We have our sympathizers even behind the Iron Curtain," he told the President.

Oldenbroek told reporters later there is considerable resistance, in the form of deliberate slow-downs by workers, in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. He said that the new ICTU publication, Spotlight, is based on information received from these sympathizers.

Oldenbroek led the delegation that visited President Truman. Accompanying him were AFL President William Green; Jacob Potofsky, chairman of the CIO international Affairs Committee; Labor Secretary Maurice Tobin; Vincent Tewson, general secretary of the British Trades Union Congress; Philip Kaiser, Assistant Labor Secretary in charge of international affairs; and W. Averell Harriman, special Presidential adviser on foreign affairs.

Tobin said they told the President about the regional conference that ICTU just held in Mexico City. The meeting established an Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers. Its leaders expressed confidence that Communist influence in Latin America is rapidly waning, and they will eventually wipe it out.

Truman was also very interested, Oldenbroek said, in the work that the ICTU is doing throughout Europe and Asia.

They told the President, he said, "that if Western Europe can maintain and improve its economic condition, there's no doubt that the European people will fight for freedom." It is the same in Asia, he added. "If we can give them hope, through the Point Four program, no doubt they will stand on the side of the Democratic forces." ICTU has membership in India, Pakistan, Burma, Siam, Hong Kong and Japan.

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AERIAL VIEW OF HIGH POINT, N. C. — 1951



(Courtesy of High Point Chamber of Commerce)

Harrison Says Sales Tax Would Fail To Control U. S. Inflation

New York—AFL Vice President George M. Harrison told the Economic Club of New York that the AFL is "opposed to a national sales tax because it does not attack inflation at its source—the price and profit level."

The president of the AFL Railway and Steamship Clerks told the Big Business executives in a blunt, no-punches-pulled, speech that "the seller and speculator fix prices, and if they won't stop raising prices they must be controlled."

"If prices are controlled, then we agree that wages should be stabilized in parity with prices," Mr. Harrison said.

Secretary of Treasury John W. Snyder and reactionary Democratic and Republican members of Congress are playing along with Big Business in an effort to levy a federal sales tax on the excuse it is needed to finance President Truman's defense emergency budget.

"Taxes must be raised to get the revenues to pay for our rearmament," Mr. Harrison said. "They should come from corporations and excess profits and individual incomes."

He said labor is aware of "the harvest that has been garnered by American business in the last year of rapid price increases" and the "rich gains" resulting from rapid amortization of war plants.

"We believe we have a right to expect forbearance, common sense and national co-operation from those who own our industries," he said.

Besides its greedy profiteering, Mr. Harrison criticized business for its efforts to take away the fundamental right to strike, its willingness to accept federal land grants, subsidies, loans and liberal contracts but to brand any government help for all the people as socialistic or un-American, and its unreasoning opposition in labor demands for wage increases to offset the burden of rising living costs.

"American wage-earners face the future and its responsibilities seriously, but with confidence," Mr. Harrison said. "But if we are compelled by circumstances beyond our control to stage another war, we are determined to let nothing stand in the way of victory—victory that will mean not only a better America, but a better and more peaceful world in our time."



New Bern And Raleigh Have Been Capitals Of North Carolina

Appearing above is a picture of North Carolina's Capitol building. The original Capitol of North Carolina was destroyed by fire on June 21, 1831.

At the session of November, 1832, the Assembly resolved to rebuild on the old site, and \$50,000 was appropriated for the purpose. Commissioners were appointed to have the work done. The rubbish was cleared away, the excavations made and the foundation was laid. On July 4, 1833, the cornerstone was set in place.

After the foundations were laid the work progressed more slowly, and it was so expensive that the appropriation was exhausted. The Legislature at its next session appropriated \$75,000 more. To do the stone and finer work many skilled artisans had been brought from Scotland and other countries. The Building Commissioners contracted with David Paton to come to Raleigh and superintend the work. Mr. Paton was an architect who had come from Scotland the year before. He was the builder, the architect, and designer.

The stone with which the building was erected was the property of the State. Had the State been compelled to purchase this material the cost of the Capitol would have been considerably increased.

In the summer of 1840 the work was finished. At last, after more than seven years, the sum of \$531,674.46 was expended. As large as the sum was for the time, when the State was so poor and when the entire taxes for all State purposes reached less than \$100,000, yet the people were satisfied. The building had been erected with rigorous economy, and it was an object of great pride to the people. Indeed, never was money better expended

than in the erection of this noble Capitol.

The first Capitol of North Carolina was in New Bern, but later it was removed to Raleigh.

North Carolina, often called the "Tar Heel" state, was the scene of the first attempt at colonization in America by English-speaking people. Under a charter granted to Sir Walter Raleigh by Queen Elizabeth, a colony was begun on Roanoke Island. This settlement however, was unsuccessful and later became known as "The Lost Colony."

North Carolina, on April 12, 1776, authorized her delegates to the Continental Congress to vote for independence, and on December 18, 1776, adopted a constitution. Richard Caswell became the first governor under this constitution. On November 21, 1789, the state adopted the United States Constitution, being the twelfth state to enter the federal union. North Carolina, in 1788, had rejected the Constitution on the grounds that certain amendments were vital and necessary to a free people.

A new state constitution was adopted in 1868 and since that date the governor has been elected by the people for four-year terms and he cannot succeed himself. There since 1868, but numerous amendments have been added to it.

North Carolina has been democratic since 1900, during which period it has made its greatest permanent capitals—New Bern and Raleigh—and there have been three capital buildings. Tryon's Palace in New Bern was constructed in the period, 1767-70, and the main building was destroyed by fire February 27, 1898. The first capitol in Raleigh was completed in 1794 and was destroyed by fire on June 21, 1831. The present capitol was completed in 1840.

North Carolina supports a nine months school for every child of school age and maintains a fleet of 4,800 buses by which it transports 348,000 children to school each school day in the year. During a nine months term these 4,800 buses travel approximately 31,000,000 miles.

LABOR COUNCIL AT OAK RIDGE HITS RENT HIKE

The Atomic Trades and Labor Council at Oak Ridge, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, has taken the lead in protesting a scheduled hike in rents on all government housing units at Oak Ridge next August 1.

Atomic Energy Commission officials have announced that rentals of apartments and houses will be boosted by 25 to 30 per cent. The step is taken — says the AEC, to bring Oak Ridge rentals in line with those of the surrounding area.

Kenneth Scott, co-ordinator of the Trades and Labor Council, has bitterly denounced the scheduled hikes.

The Council represents some 1,200 workers chiefly at the Oak Ridge national laboratory.

Many Workers OK Under Pension Plan

Benefit Programs Up During The Last Two Years.

WASHINGTON.—At least 7,640,000 workers were covered by collectively bargained pensions or social insurance benefits by mid-1950, the U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. The extent of benefit coverage — more than double that found in 1948—reflects the widespread movement of the last two years on the part of employers and unions to establish new programs, or bring existing pension or insurance benefits within the scope of labor-management agreements.

Pension plans now cover more than 5,000,000 workers, tripling the number covered two years ago. Agreements providing various other social insurance benefits—life, accident, and sickness, hospitalization, surgical and medical care — afford protection to some 7,000,000 workers, most of whom are also covered by pensions.

In most instances the cost of the pension or "health and welfare" plan is financed solely by the employer, the survey disclosed. This was particularly true for pensions. Of the 4.8 million workers for whom data were available on the method of financing, 80 per cent were covered by non-contributory (employer-financed) pension programs. Social insurance benefits, financed solely by the employer, covered about 60 per cent of the workers included under such collectively bargained plans. The remainder were financed jointly by contributions from workers and their employers.

Life insurance ranks first among the individual insurance benefits most frequently provided in contracts, in terms of the number of workers covered. It is followed in order by hospitalization; surgical and/or medical; accident and sickness; and accidental death and dismemberment.

Among the industries in which large numbers of workers are covered by some type of employee benefit program under labor-management contracts, metal products (including steel, auto, and machinery, accounted for nearly 2.5 million. Almost 1.5 million workers each are covered by plans in (1) the textile, apparel and leather, and (2) transportation, communication, and other public utility (except railroads) group of industries.

Employer-financed insurance and/or health plans were characteristic of the textile, apparel and leather; lumber and furniture; printing and publishing; mining and quarrying; and trade, finance, insurance, and service industry groups. Employer-financed pension plans predominated in the textile, apparel and leather; printing and publishing; stone, clay, and glass; and mining and quarrying industries.

The survey also disclosed that practically every major union in the country (excluding unions representing railroad and Government employees for whom special Federal legislation exists) had negotiated, to some extent, pension or "health and welfare" programs.

Of the total coverage of 7,650,000 workers, slightly more than one-third (35 per cent) were under plans of unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. About 47 per cent were included under benefit programs negotiated by Congress of Industrial Organizations affiliated unions and the remainder by unaffiliated or independent unions.

36 per cent, and was almost 50 per cent above the previous peak of 937,000 units in 1925.

An 11-per cent increase in December brought that month's total to 95,000 units.

Local 42, Bakery and Confectionery Workers, Atlanta, Ga., has obtained a pay increase for 300 employes of Gordon Foods.

HOME BUILDING IN 1950 BROKE ALL PAST MARKS

Washington. — The nation's home-builders started 95,000 new permanent non-farm dwelling units in December, bringing the 1950 total to a record-smashing 1,400,000 units.

The U. S. Labor Statistics said this total exceeded the 1949 record volume of 1,051,000 units by