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## CAPITAL REPORTER

Scott Summers

RALEIGH, N. C. Rep. Bob Lassiter of Mecklenburg, a reported candidate for speakership of the House in 1953, didn't win any friends among the farm folks with his outburst at a Joint Finance Committee meeting the other day.

They were arguing over a revenue bill amendment that would have put farm machinery in the same tax bracket as mill machinery. This would have taken farm machinery out of the sales tax section and put it under the wholesale tax—cutting taxes from three per cent to one-twentieth of one per cent.

Rep. Alonzo Edwards of Greene, Farm Bureau leader, termed the change a fair one to the taxpayers of the State and made a motion for a favorable report.

Then Yale-educated, wealthy Attorney Lassiter hopped to his feet.

"This will foul up the revenue schedule," he said. (It would cut about \$1,700,000 off State income for the next two years.)

"The farmers pay practically no tax but the sales tax," the Charlotte lawyer charged, and added vehemently: "The cry of tax discrimination against the farmers is beginning to nauseate me—we are fair to the farmers!"

This blast brought immediate and heated response. Republican Rep. B. C. Brock of Davie made his first speech of the session.

"The land tax paid by the farmer almost runs the State," he said. "Farmers cannot pass taxes on as others do, they are forced to absorb them."

Senator Charles Gold of Rutherford said farm machinery should be exempt from the sales tax. Senator W. H. S. Eubank of Northampton, Rep. Wayland Floyd of Robeson both reported the problems of border county farm machinery dealers with the sales tax. "Our dealers have to absorb the tax in order to sell," they said.

But the "hold-the-liners" won out again. Only 30 committeemen voted in favor of taking farm machinery out from under the sales tax. House Finance Chairman Eugene Bost of Cabarrus announced that "either 41 or 44 or somewhere between" voted against the change. It seems they had a little bit of trouble getting an accurate count.

Lassiter showed a bit of inconsistency in his attitude. Although he was against this amendment because it would "exempt farmers from taxes," he also voted against an amendment—backed by the Farm Bureau and the State Grange—to do away with all sales tax exemptions, thereby adding to the taxes farmers would pay.

But, being a "hold-the-line" exponent, it probably was to be expected. However, their attitude toward taxes seems to be less of a "hold-the-line" affair than it is one of a "do-nothing" category. They have turned down all attempts to either raise, lower or equalize. They just don't "do nothin'" about taxes.

These do-nothing boys are getting a little frustrated. They've been admittedly trying to get the revenue bill out on the floor before the appropriations subcommittee reports back on the spending bill. But Rep. John Umstead of Orange and others have been delaying them time and again. Now it looks as though it will be late this week or longer before they can wind up action on the revenue bill. They are afraid appropriation recommendations will be so high that some of the boys will fight for more taxes in order to leave with a budget that is at least something like balanced.

Since they haven't been able to get the tight-fisted budget recommended by the Advisory Budget Commission through, the "hold-the-liners" apparently have adopted a new tactic.

They want to put the budget so high—while keeping taxes as they are—that income will not

be enough to balance off. The idea being that it will put Kerr Scott on the spot about a year hence if there isn't enough money to go around.

They seem to think they can scare him out of calling a special session by threatening him with everything from impeachment on down if he calls them back. They seem to think that he then will be forced as director of the budget to cut salaries and expenditures, as he can by law, and thus make him one of the most unpopular men in North Carolina history.

They're underestimating their man. You can bet that—if the budget is out of balance about a year from now—Kerr Scott will call a special session. His record on added expenses is clear. He repeatedly has claimed that new spending calls for new revenue.

And he doesn't scare easy. It wouldn't be at all surprising if the budget starts running deficit-wise—to see the governor call a special session right in the big fat middle of the spring campaigning, saying: "You messed it up—now you straighten it out."

After all, even if a bitter anti-Scott Legislature were to impeach him, Scott has a right fair dairy farm down Alamance way. He doesn't have to be governor to make a living.

Reg Harris of Roxboro—former lieutenant-governor, ex-speaker of the House and ex-senator who was edged out by B. I. Satterfield last year in his attempt to succeed himself as Person county's representative—has Senate friends who are carrying on his local fight for him.

It is customary that local bills are passed by both houses. The idea is that, if the folks back home don't like it, they'll do something about it at the next election.

Well, Satterfield introduced a bill calling for election of the judge and solicitor of Person County Court, instead of being appointed by the county commissioners.

The bill passed the House without comment or negative vote. Then the Senate Courts and Judicial Districts Committee listened to Harris instead of the man Person County elected as representative. The committee then killed the bill by a 4-vote.

Seems to me that even a former lieutenant-governor ought to have to fight his own local political fight at home. It's not up to a Senate committee to tell Person County folks who should represent them.

Incidentally, Harris reportedly is planning to run again for lieutenant-governor in an attempt to recapture the prestige that he seems to feel he lost in being bested by Satterfield.

It's a little ironic that the bill introduced by Satterfield—a Scott supporter—should have been defeated by three anti-administration senators (Irving Carlyle of Forsyth, Rivers Johnson of Duplin and Luther Barnhardt of Cabarrus, along with a Republican, H. P. Eller of Wilkes).

Legislative brass believes in reciprocity. Finance committee chairmen are members of the appropriations committees, and vice versa. Not long ago, appropriations committee leaders were afraid the Powell bill would hit a snag. Finance committee heads came over and cast the deciding votes that kept it from going to a subcommittee for some much-needed study. Last week the finance committee leaders were a shade doubtful about killing a revenue amendment. You guessed it—appropriations committee heads came over to lend a vote, even if it wasn't needed.

That \$500-worth of foam rubber cushions, bought to ease the pain of hard-bottomed chairs for finance-appropriations committeemen, won't do jealous state employes any good. Many had been waiting for the legislators to get

## Taft Unmasked By Pearson

Senator Robert A. Taft revealed his true feelings about workers, farmers and veterans in a recent conference which he obviously thought was "off-the-record."

Taft's comments as reported by Columnist Drew Pearson, came at a secret session of the Joint Committee on the Economic Report.

Here are Taft's views: 1—Workers overtime pay should be taken away in taxes. (He evidently never breathed a word about taking away Big Business profits by increasing their taxes.)

2—Farmers' prices should be lowered. (He evidently never breathed a word about tremendous profits being gathered in by processors and meat packers, who have been raising prices almost daily.)

3—Veterans should not receive another GI insurance dividend. (He evidently never breathed a word about trimming dividends to stockholders.)

Taft's comments, which reflect completely different views than those he spouted during the last campaign, came during a discussion of the dangers of inflation.

To the committee, Taft advocated that workers, forced to labor overtime because of the production needs of a defense economy, be taxed for all of their overtime earnings.

He also told the committee, "Under present prices, farmers are certainly prosperous. I have been through every rural county in Ohio this year. They are well off."

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out of town, hoping that maybe then they, too, could sit a little easier. But those cushions are to be reserved for legislative posteriors. At the close of the session they will be locked away and brought out again only when the General Assembly comes back to town.

Two staunch Senate dries still have red faces.

They noticed the other day that, as usual, practically no one was sounding off on the votes for local bills.

"Let's yell out on the next bill," said one. The other agreed. The reading clerk mumbled the title of the bill. Lt. Gov. Pat Taylor called for the "ayes."

"Aye," hollered the two dries. Surprised looks greeted their votes—because they had inadvertently voted FOR a local liquor bill.

Red-faced, they asked the press to note that they already had been recorded as voting against the likker measure, and had to admit that they hadn't known what bill they were voting on.

The State war veteran's bonus bill predicted by Capital Reporter last August was introduced in the House last week by Alamance County's Rep. George Long. It calls for added taxes on beer, wine and liquor and would pay from \$500 to \$1,000 to each veteran over a period of years. The added taxes would raise some \$4,000,000 extra a year, and the total bonus would cost upwards of \$200,000,000—the same as our rural road program. But, with liquor and beer lobbyists having the power they do this session, the bill most likely will die in committee.

Personally, and as an ex-combat Marine, I find myself siding with the lobbyists for a change—but I am not against the bill for the same reason they are. I don't care how much tax they add to liquor, wine and beer. But, although I could use the money, I resent anyone trying to put a price tag on patriotism. I think it's a pretty poor North Carolinian who wouldn't fight for his State and country, even if he didn't get a dime.

Notes from the trip to Cherry Point:

The tragic plane crash and death of a jet pilot hit everyone hard. And it brought home forcibly the fact that we are at war. (Continued on Page 3)

## Housewife Knows Wilson's Failure, Green Says Gives Six Answers To Untruthful Meany Says All Nation Is Concerned, Not Just Organized Labor Alone

WASHINGTON.—The government has failed utterly in the fight against inflation. The failure is obvious. Every housewife knows it. Prices are still going up and up and up. Thus AFL President William Green, speaking as co-chairman of the United Labor Policy Committee representing 15 million Americans, answered Defense Mobilization Czar Charles E. Wilson's untruthful "damned if I know what" labor wants.

Mr. Wilson made the remark upon returning to Washington from Key West, Fla., where he had issued an earlier untruthful statement that United Labor had demanded the power to determine the allocation of manpower to the armed forces.

Leaving President Truman's vacation headquarters at Key West, Mr. Wilson said also that he and the President are "conscious of the hue and cry."

"I think as a matter of fact that neither one of us understands what all the excitement and the shouting is about," Mr. Wilson said. Mr. Truman made no comment but White House Secretary Joseph H. Short said the matter is being studied in daily conferences.

Mr. Green's radio speech was one of a series being made on all four networks and television detailing the United Labor Policy Committee's reasons for withdrawal of the representatives from the Wage Stabilization Board and Defense Mobilization Office.

The AFL, CIO, Machinists and railroad brotherhoods making up the committee, have called the heads of state and city regional organizations to Washington March 20 and 21 to report directly on the situation and attempt

to arouse grass-roots awareness of the price-wage hoax.

Thousands of letters have already deluged Mr. Wilson from workers, consumers and their organizations protesting his failures. President Truman and Congress are also hearing from the folks back home.

They should hear more. Price Stabilization Director Michael V. DiSalle granted auto retailers permission to mark up the actual dollars and cents increases to them of the 3 1-2 per cent price rise granted manufacturers a few days earlier.

A price stabilization official in Los Angeles said that Mr. DiSalle would shortly take the entire food industry out from under the general price freeze and put them under the "legalized robbery" order guaranteeing profit-marking-ups.

The National Production Authority—in Mr. Wilson's office also—expanded its list of items for which it will deny steel, ranging from automobiles to pocket knives, including hundreds of articles. This means unemployment for workers in those plants which don't have on-hand defense orders. And there's been no word from Mr. Wilson that he has thought of that angle at all.

## 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 in

WASHINGTON.—AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany said "everybody in the country is concerned" about the failures of Defense Mobilization Czar Charles E. Wilson and the Administration to develop a stabilization program that will halt the rising cost of living.

The failure to control rents and prices, to propose an equitable tax program for the low-income worker, and deal effectively with small business and manpower problems "is not just an organized labor problem," he said on "Reporters' Roundup" over Mutual Broadcasting System. "It's a problem affecting all the American people."

In reply to questions from top Washington newsmen, Mr. Meany made these other points:

The United Labor Policy Committee, which withdrew union representatives from the Wage Stabilization Board and Defense Mobilization setup, talked to Mr. Wilson only about civilian manpower for defense industries.

Mr. Wilson arbitrarily took over control of civilian manpower from the Labor Department. "He not only shut out labor, but he shut out management," Mr. Meany said.

"Our objections are not to Mr. Wilson just because he is a big business man but to his thinking only of big business. The job requires some one who will think about big business, small business, labor and all the people."

"We get along better with Eric Johnson (economic stabilization administrator) because there is a difference in personality, approach and thinking."

United Labor withdrew from the wage board because the public members did not represent the public. They took their orders from Mr. Wilson and sold his idea to the industry members. It was not a tripartite board, labor members were never consulted. They were only asked to vote on orders already drawn by public and industry members.

United labor will return to a tripartite board reorganized along the lines of the old War Labor Board where industry and labor take an equal pledge to submit disputes without lockouts or strikes to the board for the duration of the emergency.

Organized labor is ready to give a no-strike pledge any time the President of the United States feels the welfare of the nation demands it.

Labor made protests to Mr. Truman in statements, beginning as long ago as the AFL Executive Council statement in August 1950, letters and by committees on the shortcomings of the Defense Production Act and administration of the mobilization program.

"My branch of organized labor is not in the Democratic Party, never has been; it is not in the Republican party," Mr. Meany said.

"We are going to the people we represent on this issue."

## Wanted: The Guts Of Thomas Paine

"If you're scared now . . . think back to the days of '76."

"Our cause seemed lost . . . dispirited Americans were freezing . . . starving . . . without ammunition. At that desperate moment, Thomas Paine huddled over a drumhead, in a raging blizzard, produced the stirring words of 'The Crisis,' and their impact was felt throughout the land! Once again American courage flamed . . . once again the light of liberty burned in the eyes of men whose feet left bloodstains in the snow."

"And today — once again — America needs that kind of courage. We've got it on the battlefield, where our outnumbered, outgunned soldiers face Communist barbarians that blacken the horizon."

"But where is this courage on

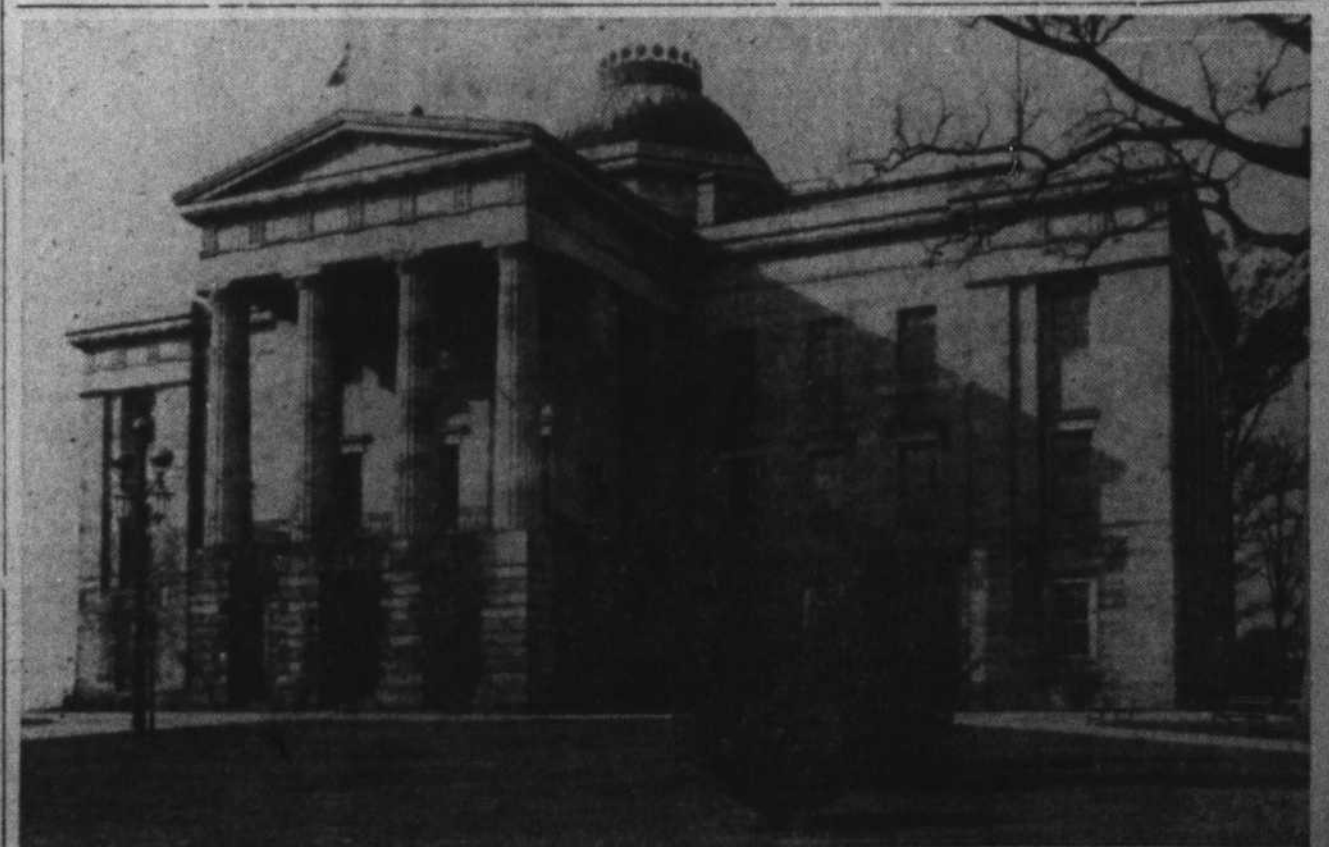
the home front? Where is the leadership that inspires us to superhuman efforts . . . to sacrificial heights? Where is the courage of our leaders when they become lily-livered before U. N. liars? Even blackguard Russia's delegates walk out at the slightest innuendo. But when our leaders are insulted, they just sit there and childishly answer back: 'I did not—you did!' 'I did not—you did!'

"No wonder the Reds think they have us nailed to the barn door!"

"Personally, the situation nauseates us . . . and we want to DO SOMETHING about it. We in newspaper, magazine, radio and television have the tools that can arouse people in a great nation-wide crusade to restore GUTS AND DETERMINATION to the home front."

"We can start a new chapter of American courage. But we must act fast and act decisively. Double-talk about not wanting war is nonsense. War is here! We're in it up to the HILT! And if we don't shake our prepared-

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