

Editorial

THE CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

AND DIXIE FARM NEWS

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OLDEST LABOR PUBLICATION IN THE TWO CAROLINAS

H. A. Stalls, Editor and Publisher W. M. Witter, Associate Editor
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NPA's FREE RIDERS

Sen. Burnet Maybank (D., S. C.), chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Defense Production, charges that "the most serious problem before the country" is the abuse by the big-business run National Production Authority (NPA) of a law that gives many firms tax-free privileges.

The result is loss of money rightfully belonging to the Government. You, the taxpayer, have to make up the difference.

The measure, called the "amortization law"—passed by Congress last year—gives lots of businessmen with war contracts a profit of up to 20 per cent tax free. The law allows many companies which must build new plants in filling defense orders to pay for their increased expense in five years by subtracting it from their tax bills.

But NPA is giving tax reductions to firms that are not in defense work. Maybank said many certificates for quick tax write-offs have been given to such businesses as cotton gins, a cement firm and a motor truck line. None is in defense work.

He said \$2. billion in such certifications have gone to big firms simply because "generally speaking, the bigger companies have come in faster." Maybank said \$11.6 billion for tax amortization privileges had been received by March 19. During World War II the total amount of such privileges was only \$6 billion.

The Maybank committee will begin an investigation of the mobilization program April 4. Defense Czar Charles Wilson will be the first witness. Labor and farm leaders will be heard later.

VOICE FROM THE WILDERNESS

Read what one business leader, President Alfred Baker Lewis of the Union Casualty Insurance Co. of New York, says about organized labor and the defense program in a letter to the New York Times, March 8:

"The United Labor Policy Committee's fundamental contention with Mr. Wilson is that labor wants to be treated in our defense mobilization effort not as a very subordinate underling, but as a full partner.

"Surely this is an important part of the distinction between free labor and forced labor as it exists under totalitarian dictatorships. . . .

"The second World War set-up, with Mr. Hillman for labor and Mr. Knudsen for industry having equal authority, is a fair precedent for what labor wants in this respect."

"BUNCH OF SERFS"

"We have fought business organizations set up in restraint of trade, we have fought trusts and monopolies. Then we turn over to Big Business the whole works of defense mobilization.

"It might be 20 years until we no longer have a fear of aggression. In that time under present policies we'll certainly be a bunch of regimitted serfs.

"The defense mobilization machinery is the most socially indefensible, economically unworkable and politically unwise program that I ever heard of." AFL Vice President George Harrison, March 20, 1951.

RICH GUYS ALWAYS VOTE

The rich guys always vote. But most other people fall down on the job.

The February Oregon Democrat points out 81 per cent of the voters in 15 Portland precincts where rich people live went to the polls in 1950. But only 47 per cent of the people in 15 precincts where plain people live bothered to vote.

If more people like you and your neighbor went to the polls, more people with your interests at heart would be elected.

THE MAN WHO DOESN'T BELONG GETS LEFT BEHIND

Listening to the radio debate on Town Meeting of the Air the other night, we noted one important point on which both I.A.M. President Al Hayes and the management spokesman, Robert A. Whitney, were in complete agreement.

Mr. Whitney raised the point: What about those Americans who don't belong to an organization? Nobody is looking out for their interests.

Al Hayes didn't argue the point. He agreed with Mr. Whitney that the unorganized, the men and women who don't belong to a union are at a great disadvantage, especially in times like these.

The man who doesn't belong gets left behind. On that there is no argument. Even management admits it.

Twenty years ago, most Americans were in the same boat. Unions were small groups of men—men with farsightedness and great courage. Then came the great depression of the early 1930's and most of us learned our lesson the hard way. We joined unions.

Today, unions are no longer small organizations. Today there are almost 16,000,000 men and women in America who belong to unions. It doesn't take much farsightedness now to see the practical benefits that come from union membership. However, it still takes some personal independence and personal courage to join a union.

Organized labor's gain over the past 20 years have not been made without a struggle. Many men and women have known the dreary ache of long hours on the picket line. Courage, organization and unity have paid off—not only in wage rates and paid vacations and paid holidays and better conditions, but in the personal sense of self-confidence, and independence that comes from being a part of a strong, American union.

Whenever we hear or read about the problems of unorganized workers we feel sad, too. Because we know that in many cases, those men and women can do something to help themselves. Our unions are open. They can join us. Then they won't be stragglers at the end of the parade. As union members they will lead the procession.

—The Machinist.

CAPITAL REPORTER

Scott Summers

RALEIGH, N. C.—The General Assembly now has entered what might be called "dog days."

The legislators are driving for adjournment by April 14, at the latest and may make it. Tempers are short and pay has run out.

The flood of new bills continues to pour in at a terrific rate. The members are all trying to get their local bills through before curtain time.

This too is the time of session when the oldtimers either have their eyes open for "sneak bills" or else are trying to ease their own "sneakers" through. The original ABC bill, for example, was pushed through in the final days—or perhaps it could be termed more properly the final "daze"—of a mid-30's session.

So, between now and April 14 you can expect almost anything to happen—if it already hasn't.

The battle of the appropriations bill, which has passed the House, could have been a political ace in the hole for the conservative "hold-the-line" leadership.

But it turned into a losing hand when they tried to put a pair of jokers in the deck.

The anti-administration boys couldn't stand their good luck when income tax returns showed that there might be enough revenue to pay the \$42,000,000 boost in the budget to which they had been forced.

They had to take a couple of end-of-the-session swipes at the governor.

They included a couple of little amendments in the bill which would have (1) given the Advisory Budget Commission authority to allocate the surplus highway funds, now allocated by the governor, and (2) also given the Advisory Budget Commission control over whacking up the \$2,000,000 Contingency and Emergency Fund, now parceled out by the governor and Council of State.

They tried to rush the report of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee—which had those little gems tucked deep inside—through the full committee the same day it was reported out.

But the full committee managed to stop this move. And before this happened, one inquisitive reporter found the two jokers. She passed the word along and the fat was in the fire.

The lines began to form. Governor Scott questioned the constitutionality of the grab for power by the Conservatives. It put members of the Legislature in the position of double-office holding in addition to invading the executive branch of the government.

Folks normally on the anti-administration side began to hear from important folks back home.

The full appropriations committee managed to fight off the rebellion, despite the move being termed "damnable" by lawmakers. One of these was Rep. Phil Whitley of Wake who consistently—from this corner, at least—has tried to call 'em the way he sees 'em, no matter who was backing a bill.

By the time the bill reached the floor of the House, though, it was obvious that the Scott forces had whipped together a winning margin on the two changes in policy. Offers to compromise were turned down. And when the bill reached the floor, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Larry Moore avoided a losing fight by withdrawing the two changes that would have curbed administrative powers of the governor.

That fight was one of the wildest, no-holds-barred affairs staged in recent legislative history. The behind-the-scenes slugging was terrific, and it's rumored that there would be some mighty red faces among the conservative crowd if the whole story of the battle could be told.

The "hold-the-liners" managed to keep their joint sub-committee report intact through the House, except for that defeat, however.

Despite blasts from school teachers and State employees, and repeated attempts to go beyond the appropriations committee report, the attempts failed. Charges and counter charges were hurled across the floor.

But it still wound up at roughly \$42,778,000 above the originally recommended budget, bringing the total budget for the next

two years to roughly \$502,000,000.

Some adroit questioning on the floor brought admission from conservative leaders that the higher budget would not help the teacher load nor would it buy new school buses.

This, along with the \$15-a-month across-the-board raise for State employees already has caused turmoil in the various State Departments. Employees claim the conservative leadership promised a "cost-of-living" increase that would help them. Following the action, many may quit their jobs for better ones. Department heads say the leaving of their jobs by experienced personnel will seriously hamper their work, and actually cost the State more money in inefficiency than would have what they considered a more equitable wage boost.

Teachers are unhappy over the \$2,200-\$3,100 pegging of their salaries. But efforts to tag on contingency raises or any other raises of any kind have failed. The "hold-the-liners" feared that they would not be able to stem the tide of amendments if the line were broken once.

However, the fight is still on, and there might possibly be a few changes in the final score.

The first attempt to ram the appropriations bill through the Senate failed, but the vote indicated a possible brawl. A two-thirds majority was needed for Sen. Hampton Price's motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. Twenty-six voted for the motion and twenty against, failing to get the required majority. The vote came after vigorous objection by Sen. Julian Allsbrook of Halifax, who said he had an amendment he wanted to offer but refused to say what it was.

The rabble-rousing techniques used by the veterans marching on Raleigh hollering for a bonus was disturbing to a lot of folks—many of them veterans, too.

They threatened a real march if they didn't get what they wanted. They said they were entitled to a bonus, that they wanted the voters to decide, that the money could come from added tax on beer, wine and whiskey and wouldn't hit the non-drinkers, that they were owed something for fighting for their country.

Daniel MacFarland of Raleigh, an Army sergeant and a veteran of Anzio, didn't feel the same way. He told the Finance Committee he thought veterans were pretty well taken care of by Uncle Sam, that if they could find all that money there were a great many State agencies and services needing it badly.

It made you a little sick to listen to it all. Out of a group of several hundred only one man didn't want to be paid for loving his country. Only one man apparently thought he owed North Carolina and America something for living in a free country.

Wonder if those boys ever thought what would have happened to them in Japan, Germany or Russia if they had marched to their capitol telling their lawmakers they demanded a bonus or else.

They'd have gotten the "or else," all right — except they would have been on the receiving end.

Here's your bonus, boys. You live in a country where you can march on your capitol, demand laws you want. And most important — you walked back out, still free men to cuss your lawmakers, your state, your nation.

You still can go out and get a bonus—opportunity to live your life the way you see fit, grab opportunity in your hands and make your own bonus—millions of folks are doing it.

And you ought to get down on your knees every night and thank God for it.

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.

LITTLE THINGS about the STARS

BY LILLEY

JAY MEREDITH

"CRYSTAL GATES" OF CBS' DAYTIME DRAMA, "YOUNG DR. MALONE." JAY, BLUE-EYED BLONDE, STUDIED ACTING AT CARNEGIE TECH. DRAMA SCHOOL, NOW APPEARS ON AS HIGH AS 10 RADIO SHOWS A WEEK. ALSO ACCOMPLISHED VIOLINIST AND PIANIST.



JANE ALISON
"META WHITE" ON CBS' "THE GUIDING LIGHT" A RADIO VETERAN OF 12 YEARS, JANE WAS THE ORIGINAL "MARY" GISTER OF "HENRY" ON "THE ALDRICH FAMILY." SHE HAS CONTRASTING HOBBIES: RACING A SLOOP, SCULPTING.



BARBARA BECKER
SOPHISTICATED "BYBIL OVERTON" ON NBC'S "THE ROAD TO LIFE." BARBARA WAS DETROIT'S FIRST GIRL DISC JOCKEY. ALSO HAS DONE PHOTOGRAPHIC MODELING. SHE GOT HER FIRST RADIO ROLE WHEN IN HIGH SCHOOL AT 15, HAS BEEN RADIO ACTING SINCE.



LITTLE THINGS about the STARS

TELEVISION - RADIO - HOLLYWOOD

By GEORGE LILLEY

NEW YORK, N. Y.—In ceremonies at Valley Forge, Pa., General Omar N. Bradley has presented on behalf of "Cavalcade of America" one of the highest honors yet bestowed upon a broadcast—first place for radio programs in the 1950 Freedom Foundation Awards. In 1949, when the first annual awards were made, the Du Pont dramatic program also won one of the top honors for best exemplifying the Foundation's credo of the American Way of Life. A jury consisting of State Supreme Court Justices and officers of American patriotic societies, select Freedom Foundation winners.



Gene Tierney



Richard Widmark



Joan Fontaine

In its 16th year, "Cavalcade of America" (Tuesday nights, NBC) deals with people, little known as often as not, who have made significant contributions to the growth of America. Scripts are authentically written in an idiom of vivid reality and the stars who perform them are virtually a "who's who" of Broadway and Hollywood. Such names as Helen Hayes, Joan Fontaine, Walter Hampden, Gene Tierney, Richard Widmark, Charles Laughton, Irene Dunne, are among the frequent "Cavalcade" guests.

PORTIA'S LIFE
Like an old friend, a good radio serial wears well. Among the best wearers: "Portia Faces Life," a show that over the last 11 years invariably has rated among the top 3 in the popularity charts. "Portia" (daytime, NBC) is a brilliant lawyer who would rather be a contented housewife. Invariably she is far from her happy goal. She has faced widowhood, support of a young son, adjustments of a new marriage, temporary loss



Lucille Ball

of her second husband (amnesia), the necessity of defending him in a murder trial, among other domestic trials. Smart, veteran actress Lucille Wall has played "Portia" since the beginning. Wednesdays the program offers a special feature, "Woman of the Week"—human interest interviews with women in the news selected by the show's star.

Plausible Tramp (in suburbs) — "Lady, I ain't beggin' but can I hang around till yer dawg's done with that there bone?"

2nd MRS. BURTON'S 5th
"The Second Mrs. Burton," CBS daytime serial, is celebrating its fifth anniversary—one of radio's more pleasant domestic dramas. "Terry Burton," as the second wife of "Stan Burton," New England storekeeper and dabbler in politics, has her homey problems—especially her mother-in-law—but, generally speaking, this is one of radio's most moderate, lovable characters. Patsy Campbell, a



Patsy Campbell

informal ex-Chicagoan who likes farm cooking and coin collecting, plays the role of "Terry." Dwight Weist, who gained fame as the March of Time voice of Hitler, Churchill, Roosevelt, Wendell Wilkie and others, is "Stan." Wednesdays an interview series, "Family Counselor," presenting people of interest to housewives, is part of the program.

The wise consumer buys Union Label merchandise. Buy Gompers stamps!

SOAP MAKERS' PRICE ROLL-BACK REFLECTED IN CONSUMER SALES

WASHINGTON. — Reports reaching OPS headquarters indicate that the recent roll-back of manufacturers' prices of soaps and cleansers is being reflected in price cuts in retail sales to consumers. Makers' prices, which had increased this year, were rolled back to December levels. Prices of inedible tallow and greases, basic soap materials, and of fancy tallow, were also rolled back. OPS Director DiSalle said that, except for retailers caught in a "squeeze" by not having raised prices prior to January 25, the order should result in reductions of a cent a bar on soap and possibly two cents on packaged soap products.

Expensive
MacTavish: "I hear yer friend Angus has marrit a third wife." Elder: "Aye, Angus is an expensive freend—two wreaths and three presents in seventeen years."

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