

CHARLOTTE LABOR JOURNAL

VOL. XX; NO. 51

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1951

Subscription Price \$2.00 Year



CAPITAL REPORTER

Scott Summers

RALEIGH, N. C.—The abrupt eleventh-hour dismissal of Gurney P. Hood as state commissioner of banks and the appointment of Woodrow W. Jones as his successor has caused almost as much yammering on a state level, of course—as the MacArthur wrangle.

Hood, who has done a good job for 20 years, says he heard about his replacement via radio as he was driving to see a sick friend.

"The first I knew about it," he said, "was when I heard the radio announcer say that the Senate had just confirmed W. W. Jones as commissioner of banks, replacing me."

Hood said he had received no word from Governor Scott or his office that he was to be put out to pasture.

That aroused a storm of criticism from foe and friend of the governor.

There was almost unanimous opinion that Hood should have been given the common-courtesy of notification that he was through.

And it brought out two questions both of which has not been answered officially. These questions are:

1. Why was Gurney Hood let out?

2. Why wasn't he at least told goodbye.

The answer to question number one is rather involved. Hood backers claim that Kerr Scott still has not forgotten that the ex-banks commissioner supported Charlie Johnson for governor and that that is the reason for his dismissal. They claim that since Scott's election Hood has gone down the line for the governor, backing the school roads bond issues, backing Frank Graham for senator, and generally backing his boss all the way—even incurring the enmity of his old conservative friends by so doing.

Scott supporters, who were pleased with Hood's campaigning on behalf of Better School and Roads, infer that Hood's apparent up-to-the-hilt support of Scott has not been all that it seemed. They claim that Hood has been giving lip-service to the Scott administration, but that his heart and some under-cover effort has been in at least giving "aid and comfort" to Scott enemies.

You can hear—if you're listening in the right places—that Scott promised the commissioner of banks job to Jones as far back as 1948. You also can hear, and probably have heard, that Jones knew nothing of the appointment until the morning he was confirmed by the Senate; that Jones was called from the governor's office and asked how he would like to be commissioner of banks, and that all that was heard from Jones' end of the telephone line was a gulp and a gasp.

That is the best explanation that can be found as to why Gurney Hood was let go.

As to the second question, why wasn't he told about it, that answer is much simpler.

You remember that the Senate confirmed Jones as commissioner of banks on Saturday, the last day of the session (April 14). The Governor did not know until 5:30 p. m. Friday, the day before, that the appointment had to be confirmed by the Senate. In fact, he had been advised earlier by Attorney General MacMillan that confirmation was not required and had planned to wait to name the commissioner of banks after the Legislature had adjourned.

So, after 5:30 p. m. on Friday, the move was made to assure Senate confirmation of Jones. Hood was not told anything about the move because it was anticipated that he would spend the intervening hours lining up support for himself within the Senate. Even if he could not keep the job himself, it was felt that he might be able to line up enough opposition to block Jones' confirmation—since big bankers

throughout the State have been bitterly opposed to credit unions, particularly the State Credit Union which Jones headed, and would have fought Jones' appointment if they had had the chance.

The question is asked, of course, as to why Hood wasn't at least told the next day—Saturday—at least a few minutes before the matter was brought before the Senate for action, rather than having to hear about his being fired via radio.

The answer to that is, I am told, that it was an unintentional oversight; that the Governor's office had planned to contact Hood and inform him of the impending action, but the Senate action came sooner than expected and caught the chief executive's office flat-footed.

All of which, it is true, will not pacify the vitriolic anti-Scott forces who wouldn't believe a kind word about the Governor even if they knew it was true. It still will leave many of the State's open-minded citizens a little baffled that such maneuvering is necessary. And the small core of Scott-right-or-wrong folks won't blame the Governor.

But all of them should remember that there is a continuing, bitter, no-quarter-asked political brawl going on within the Democratic Party in North Carolina. The so-called conservatives are interested in status-quo government and will stop at nothing to get their boys in the saddle, but throw out sops in the form of "no new taxes" as a battle cry. The so-called liberal faction is hailing for expanded services for the people of North Carolina, even if it takes added taxes to do the job, with the belief that expansion will make Tar Heelia a better-balanced State with better-educated, more progressive and more prosperous citizens. Then there are the ultra-conservatives—interested in special interests legislation and who really are Republicans at heart without the guts to admit it. At the other extreme are the ultra-liberals, who want the government to do everything.

Caught in the middle is conservative-liberal Mr. and Mrs. North Carolina, who want good government with needed services, minus bureaucracy and debt. These folks dream of a statesman-like Utopia where the issues and decisions can be clearcut, minus the issue-clouding and conniving of so-called practical politics.

Laugh of the week: A news note states that "Wachovia Bank and Trust Company of Winston-Salem said it spent only \$34.85 in sending its lobbyist and general counsel, B. S. Womble, to influence lawmakers on banking legislation."

Speaking of Wachovia Bank, it is rumored that the bank's Raleigh veep Leroy Martin fiddled while Gurney Hood got burned—and Jones got promoted.

The story going around is that Martin, an effective behind-the-scenes wire-puller among conservatives, got caught flat-footed in the Hood dismissal-Jones appointment affair. Hood had fought the big bank's fight against its non-par, or charge-for-check-cashing, brethren almost single-handed. And although they might not have objected too much to Hood's losing the commissioner of banks job, they certainly would have fought the appointment of Jones, a credit union man (a distasteful occupation in the minds of many bankers)—as his successor.

But Martin, it is reported, got involved in trying to stop the State Highway Commission from operating a cafeteria in its new building. At the last minute he looked as though, the story goes, Martin got so engrossed in that fight that Hood was out and Jones was in before he woke up to the fact that a political end-run had been made while he was

STRONG DEFENSE ACT WANTED

PATENTS FURNISH INCENTIVE FOR STRUGGLING INVENTORS

The amount of research and cash it takes to develop the patents which help American manufacturers produce more and better goods at lower prices is well illustrated by the history of the slide fastener known as "the zipper".

The zipper was invented in 1891 by Whitcomb L. Judson. Colonel Lewis Walker, of Meadville, Pa., formed a company to produce it, hiring Inventor Judson to improve it and build a machine for quantity production.

Years Used Up
Judson called it quits a dozen years later when his machine balked after making a few zippers. Walker teamed up with an engineer, Gideon Sundback. Sundback made a better machine, but its zippers didn't always "zip". The fastener company's funds were used up. Getting supplies on credit Sundback worked four more years while Walker's law fees supported the company. The machine was perfected in 1912.

Success Slow
First a tailor began using zippers on money-belts. The Navy put them on flying suits. A rubber company made zipper overshoes. Then—in the 1930's, 40-odd years after Judson's invention—a dress manufacturer tried the product, and the long battle was won.

Now one company makes 400 million zippers per year. Judson's original patent expired years ago, but a company directed by a grandson of the late Colonel Walker controls many patents taken out during the long research process carried on because of knowledge that if success were attained, the invention could be protected by patents.

DON'T RUSH IN TO BUY

The best possible advice to working people in this day of rising prices and price freezes that do not freeze and wage freezes that do, is to sit tight. Do not rush in and buy things you think you may need at some dim date in the future. Take it easy until all the rules are known.

The idea is to stop the inflationary swing. That can only be done if costs and production are controlled, regulated. Then prices can be regulated too. It cannot be done all at once, however, no matter how desirable that might be. The brakes have got to be applied in such a manner that our highly complex economy does not come apart.

Working people can help by refusing to take part in the buying spree. Refuse to go into debt. Buy only what you need; buy at a normal rate. Do not hoard anything; there is plenty to go around.

If you have any extra money, which is doubtful, play safe by putting it in the safest, surest investment on the face of the earth—government savings bonds.

As Executive Vice President Dave Beck has pointed out in recent Teamster conferences: In the short period of a few months we have come from a slipping, downgrade economy to an inflationary, upgrade economy. Last June unemployment was increasing, production was decreasing, the future was anything but bright. Then came the Korean affair and almost overnight the whole economy changes right about face; prices started soaring and inflation was upon us. It was impossible for wages to keep up with living costs.

Wages are still too low. They must go up. But, they will go up under a system of rules and regulations. Red tape will grow and grow, but that must be expected when government moves in. Socialist and communist countries are the most bureaucratic and official-ridden lands in the world. They really grovel in red tape and inefficiency.

We do not know if the rules governing wage increases will be fair or to our liking. We do not think they will be, but until we see the rules and understand them, there's no profit in running a temperature about them.

Go slowly: don't buy what you don't need. Buy U. S. Savings Bonds.

—Washington Teamster.

looking for a plunge through the middle of the line.

There seems to be a determined effort to whitewash the 1951 General Assembly, apparently for 1952 election purposes, and label it as one that did great things for North Carolina.

By mouth and printed word there is pious and pompous praise of legislative action, particularly the school program. These either intentional or unintentional propagandists are either ignorant of the true facts or are deliberately misrepresenting them.

"The public schools were given everything that was requested by the State Board of Education," is the loudest and most untruthful claim.

Just what is the truth? Well, the State Board of Education presented three plans to the General Assembly. The first was a minimum—calling for adequate appropriations to continue as is but to meet expanded needs caused by increased enrollment, inflation and additional school buildings, and set forth a minimum A-certificate teacher salary of \$2,200-\$3,100. Each of the other two plans called for more, and for a minimum salary of \$2,400-\$3,600 for A-grade teachers.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Clyde Erwin tells me that the Legislature did NOT appropriate even enough money to meet the minimum request of the State Board of Education. The Legislature did not add to school bus appropriations. The Legislature did not appropriate \$410,000 needed to pay for

NTEA: ALL PREACHING BUT NO PRACTICE

For eight years the National Tax quality Association (NTEA) has been fighting co-operatives NTEA has been peddling the lie that co-ops don't pay taxes. The only taxes co-ops don't pay are corporation taxes. That's because they're not corporations.

NTEA wants to make the co-ops pay corporation taxes. Why? Because NTEA is financed by grain speculators and other food gamblers who don't like competition from co-ops. Co-ops also help keep food prices down.

What about NTEA's record on taxes? Last November the U. S. Tax Court ruled that the NTEA—not the co-ops—is dodging taxes.

The court said corporations and others financing NTEA can't deduct their gifts for income tax purposes. That's because, the court explained, NTEA isn't an educational group, as it claims. It's just another big business lobby.

So facts show the very group which says co-ops don't pay taxes has been encouraging tax-dodging itself.

BANS CRAB MEAT FROM THE USSR

Washington.—The U. S. Treasury Department's Customs Bureau has banned the importation of canned crab meat from the Soviet Union on the basis of a finding "that convict labor, forced labor, and indentured labor under penal sanctions are used in whole or in part" in the manufacture and production of the crab meat.

The ban applies to canned crab meat manufactured or produced wholly or in part in the USSR and on vessels which are of USSR registry or under "exclusive dominion and control" of the USSR, unless the importer can establish "by satisfactory evidence" that the crab meat was not manufactured or produced by convict, forced, or indentured labor.

Vets Administration Should Be Informed

Veterans who are in training under the G. I. Bill should make certain when their training is completed or interrupted, that the Veterans Administration is informed of that fact, according to the VA. Otherwise the veteran will receive one or more subsistence checks for a period when he was not actually in training, and the checks will have to be returned.

A veteran is not entitled to subsistence allowances for any month in which he is not training. The veteran, as well as the school or college concerned or the on-job training establishment, should see to it that the VA is notified without any delay when a veteran's training is completed or interrupted, the VA said.

If a veteran receives a check for payment to which he is not entitled, it should be returned to the U. S. Treasury Department, rather than to the Veterans Administration. If the check is not returned, the VA is required to collect the overpayment.

Q. Does a veteran have to be honorably discharged to be awarded monetary benefits of VA?

A. Under existing laws, it is not necessary for a veteran to have an honorable discharge to be awarded benefits. However, it is necessary that he be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.

Q. As a World War II veteran, will I have to pay a fee to have someone represent me in my claim for benefits for VA?

A. If you are represented by an official of an accredited service organization or the American Red Cross, there is no fee. If you are represented by a lawyer or agent who has been admitted to practice before VA, such attorney or agent is permitted to charge \$10

DISALLE ASKS LABOR TO HELP ENFORCE CEILINGS ON LOCAL COMMITTEES

WASHINGTON — Members of organized labor are being asked to serve on local volunteer price stabilization committees.

Price Stabilization Director Michael V. DiSalle telegraphed 1,253 mayors of cities over 10,000 population on February 4 urging them to establish "immediately a volunteer emergency stabilization co-operation committee."

Mr. DiSalle "respectfully suggested" that the mayors include representatives of organized labor.

Central Labor Unions might be wise to call up their mayors and volunteer several names to serve on these committees.

"The purpose of this committee," Mr. DiSalle said, "would be to provide means of assisting regional and district office of price stabilization in encouraging general public knowledge and observance of regulations adopted in the interest of a sound national economy."

Each of the Volunteer Emergency Stabilization Co-operation Committees will have an opportunity to work closely with district and regional officials of OPS, helping in every way they can to bring information about price control before their fellow citizens.

OPS officials said they would be provided with factual material to enable them to answer questions from the public, and would be called on for advice and assistance in planning future programs of community education and co-operation.

The mayors were asked to notify their nearest district OPS office of their committee membership, so that an immediate working arrangement between the OPS officials and the volunteers could be established.

LOOPHOLES

"This excess profits tax law is so full of exemptions, credits, loopholes that it doesn't even warrant the name." — Business Columnist Sylvia F. Porter in The New York Post, March 19.

in an original claim, or \$2 in a claim for increased benefits.

Q. May I appear personally before the Rating Board in my own behalf?

A. Yes, but you must make a definite appointment to do so and be punctual if the hour of hearing has been designated.

IT'S UP TO CONGRESS TO BATTLE INFLATION THROUGH BETTER LAW

The people are wondering what Congress is going to do about strengthening the Defense Production Act—the law which was supposed to hold down inflation.

The Act dies June 30. And with it will die so-called controls on prices, on charge accounts at the stores and on money borrowed to build or buy houses.

At the same time, the rent control law—which is not part of the Defense Production Act—also will expire.

About the only thing which the Act has accomplished has been to freeze wage raises to 10 per cent—despite a jump of 22 per cent in corporation profits after the Korean war began—and to allow grain gamblers to run up the cost of food.

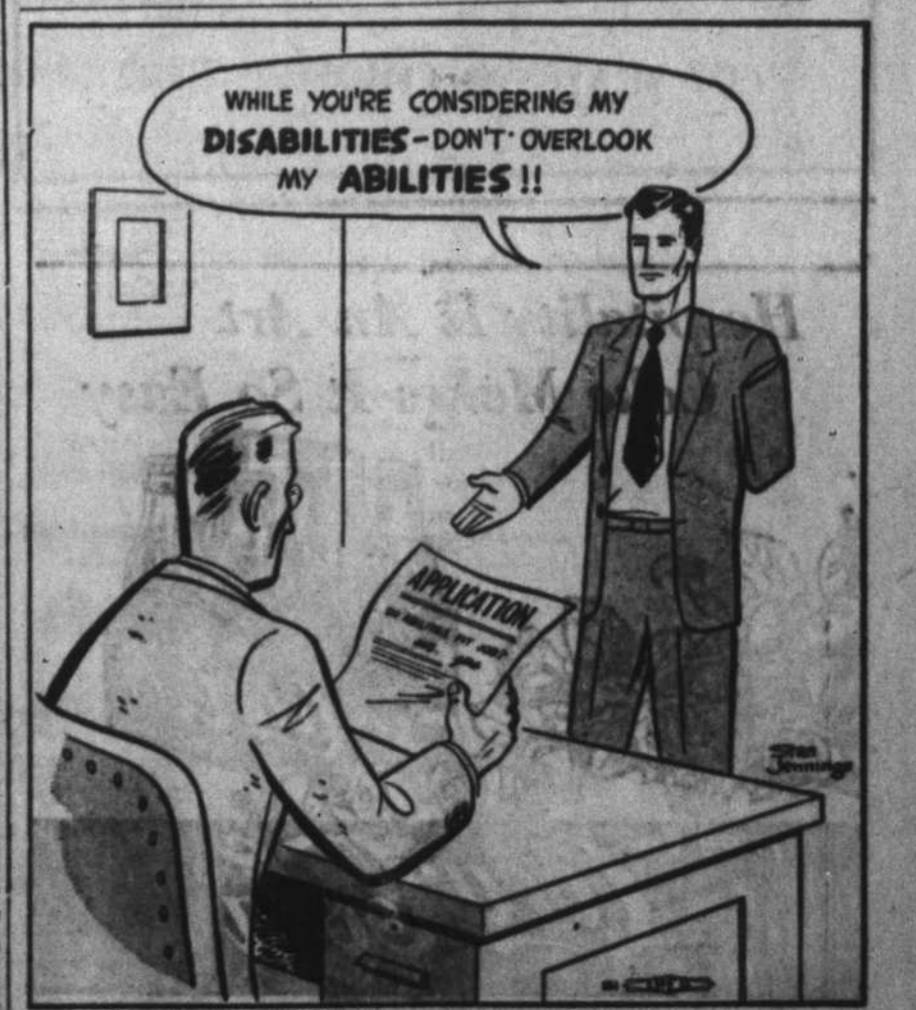
Trade unionists—whose average income is about enough to maintain their families at 1914 living standards—want to know if Congress will plug the tax loopholes; control the cost of food at the grocery store and, at the same time, assure farmers a fair price for their products and pass a strong rent control law.

As far back as December 20, the United Labor Policy Committee told President Truman that the Defense Production Act "should be promptly amended to accomplish these ends." The committee represents 16 million organized workers.

The worker, the small businessman and the housewife are watching Capitol Hill to see if their Senators and Representatives have the courage to ignore the Big Business lobbyists, and the common sense to pass a decent law that will insure equality of sacrifice during the defense emergency.

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PRICE CONTROLS

OPS Director Michael V. DiSalle said: "During my service as director of price stabilization, I have learned that the American people generally have a pretty sound knowledge of price controls. Five years of stabilization under OPA educated them to what price controls can really accomplish. We are counting on this public knowledge to give us the support we need to make price controls a success, to enforce controls with the backing of public sentiment, to have both the advantages and the burdens of controls shared equitably among all the people."



Don't Be Mentally Handicapped, Mr. Employer!
EMPLOY PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED