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CAPITAL REPORTER

Scott Summers

RALEIGH.—Some prominent farmers in the State are reportedly thinking in terms of setting up a Farmer-Cattlemen Co-operative Bank, if it can be worked out.

Seems as though it's pretty tough to get a loan to purchase cattle. Some of the smaller banks are making such loans, but the big banks are doing nothing about the problem.

And that Yankee outfit that was supposed to come in and make it easy for a farmer to borrow money to get into the cattle business is keeping mighty quiet.

Many farmers have planted permanent pasture with the hope of raising either beef or dairy cattle to supplement their income, or to be their primary source of cash. But when they go to talk to the banker about a loan to buy said cattle they've been getting the brushoff in too many instances.

So many of the prominent farmers are reported as having an eye on entering the banking business. They are investigating the possibility of setting up a co-operative bank, keeping loan costs low on a non-profit basis, in an effort to give the cattle business the stimulus it needs in North Carolina.

The state is a natural for dairy or beef cattle raising, if the farmers can get the capital to get started. These same farmers are thinking in terms of either state or federal help in getting their bank started.

It seems to be another case of private business being afflicted with a blind streak.

Fast Shuffle

The 1951 Legislature was so busy politician that it did many things halfway. Among these was the grabbing of \$69,000 from a Western Carolina Teachers College building fund. Seems that without that money to outfit a new building, the college stood a good chance of losing its accreditation. So, the Council of State had to take the \$69,000 from Contingency and Emergency fund the other day and put it back in the school's budget. That's one legislative error that could be—and was—corrected. Some of the other mistakes aren't settled quite that easily, however.

Candidate?

Bill Lassiter, attorney for the N. C. Press Association and brother of Tom (Smithfield Herald) Lassiter, is being talked around Raleigh as a possible candidate for the State Senate from Wake County next year. Bill says "it's news to me," however.

If Bill should run, one likely opponent is incumbent James H. Poun Bailey. Ironically, Bailey recently was reported as seeking the job of Raleigh's city attorney—a post Bill has resigned.

Bailey failed to get that job, apparently (although the announcement has not been made yet as to Bill's successor.)

No Big Cars

Despite all of Colonel Landon Rosser's gyrations, the Highway Patrol got nothing but Fords in a recent purchase order.

Rosser had sought bigger cars for patrol brass, but all his maneuvering accomplished was the appointment of a special Council of State Committee to study the overall picture of awarding what cars (state-owned, that is) to whom.

This committee—composed of Secretary of State Thad Eure, State Treasurer Brandon Hedges and Insurance Commissioner Waldo Cheek—will meet this week and probably will make a report on a recommended State policy on awarding automobiles.

It's at least a two-to-one bet that the suggested policy will be that the cheapest bid will be the best car for all, no matter who.

Capus Capers
From Washington comes some

interesting background information on the recent capers of and about Capus Wayne, ambassador to Nicaragua.

The chronological order comes something like this:

Capus wrote friends that, while he was not out of the 1952 gubernatorial race, he also was not yet officially in.

Thurmond Chatham, U. S. representative from the Fifth District, stopped by Nicaragua on the way back from a South and Central American tour. He then went by the State Department on his return to Washington and tells the high brass there that they're wasting a mighty good man down Nicaragua way.

Next came a note in Drew Pearson's column that Capus was scheduled for a promotion to Ambassador to Bolivia. This was followed by an editorial in the News and Observer—edited by Jonathon Daniels, national Democratic committeeman—saying in effect "we hope it's so."

Add all of this to recurring reports that Thurmond Chatham would like to be governor; along with friends' reports that Capus, who would have the administration's blessings, won't run for governor if he gets an ambassadorial promotion, and it makes you wonder who's trying to do what to whom.

Bugs Island Chatter

Meantime, last week Thurmond Chatham and Governor Scott were guests at a tour of Bugs Island and a barbecue at Oxford, both promoted by the Wildlife Club there.

Thurmond heaped praise on Governor Scott. He termed him the best agriculture commissioner in the history of the State and predicted Scott would go down in history as a great governor who always was "for something."

All of this brought the comment that Chatham sounded "like a man running for something."

The Elkin manufacturer told one reporter he was interested only in "being the best representative this state has." Other folks thought Chatham either had his eye on the governor's chair or the Senate seat now occupied by Clyde Hoey.

Footnotes

Gleanings from the Bugs Island trip included reports from some tobacco farmers that activities of the warehouse associations are slowly but surely sounding the deathknell of the auction system of selling tobacco. . . . Consolidation of schools is a major problem. One politician said it was a necessity, "but I don't know whether to come out and fight for it—killing myself politically—or to just sit back and see what happens." . . . Farmers also were talking about the increasingly high cost of getting started as a farmer—due to high labor and machinery costs. They expressed a fear that North Carolina may be moving into an era of big, machine-worked farms because of economic conditions. . . . And, according to Dairyman Kerr Scott who ought to know, nowadays it takes an investment of about \$1,000 a milking cow to get into the dairy business.

Some Jalopy

The new \$4,000 Cadillac for the governor has arrived and been put into service. It's mighty fancy, with all kinds of push-buttons, which most folks agree is as it should be for the State's chief executive—even if he is a farmer.

But even more interesting to this reporter was the stuff that the Governor carries along. There's a copy of a farm magazine, a Raleigh telephone book, a first aid kit, a box of cleansing tissue, memorandum pads, a road map, one of those thin raincoats that you can fold up and put in your pocket, and—on the day I peeped—a withered rosebud that the Governor appreciated.

(Continued On Page 3)

Put On the Heat . . .!



UNION LABEL WEEK—SEPT. 2-8

"Liberty" Prints RR Unions' Side

NEW YORK.—"Why Railroad Workers Get Sick," the first in a series of labor articles, appeared in the May issue of Liberty Magazine as part of that publication's newly-developed policy of providing an opportunity for "labor's side of the news" to reach the general public.

The railroad article, written by veteran labor reporter Ruben Levin, presents a step-by-step report of the latest flare-up in what now has become an ancient controversy. Levin is a staff writer for "Labor," national weekly newspaper of 15 railroad brotherhoods, and president of Labor Press Association, a co-operative news service for the nation's labor publications.

A thorough discussion of the issues leading up to the "Switchmen's Sickness," together with recommendations for eventual solution of the chronic problems of the railroad men, completes the article in the current issue which represents the first appearance in any general publication of the labor side of a public controversy.

"While the 'switchmen's sickness' was a malady not defined in any medical encyclopedia," Mr Levin points out that "there could be no question that the switchmen were sick—sick, angry and disillusioned at the long and endless delays in their wage case."

Government seizure was hoped by many to be a step toward early solution. Its failure, Levin reports, has best been explained by Senator Wayne Morse as a result of his findings during the Senate Labor Committee hearings.

"These government seizures are a farce," said Morse, "they put the White House on the side of the railroads. That is where the White House has been ever since in this instance." Then he added less lengthily, "It stinks!"

NEW ENSIGN TOTAL

Under a four-year-old plan, devised by Rear Admiral James L. Holloway, Jr., the Navy will get the largest group of new officers it ever had in any peacetime year.

Under the plan, candidates for Navy commissions are given a four-year education in colleges and universities throughout the nation at Government expense. This year, 1,949 such students will graduate and are required to accept commissions as ensigns in the regular Navy for two years. In addition, 696 midshipmen will graduate from the Naval Academy, making a total of 2,645 new ensigns.

APPROPRIATIONS

When Congress completes its action appropriations for the fiscal year are expected to total more than \$96,000,000,000, with \$48,000,000,000 going for defense.

CHICAGO PRINTERS DENIED BENEFITS AFTER LONG STRIKE

A circuit court judge has ruled that members of the International Typographical Union who were out for 22 months on strike against five Chicago newspapers are not entitled to state unemployment benefits because they were jobless of their own volition. The payments would have been around \$400,000.

KNOXVILLE TYPOS NAME SCALE COM.

Knoxville Typographical Union No. 111 at its last meeting named Fred Comer of the Journal chapel, and Hollis Clapp and Jack Bonner of the News-Sentinel chapel to be members of its current scale committee. Both Fred Comer and Hollis Clapp are former presidents of the Knoxville local.

The Knoxville local of the ITU also voted to contribute 10 cents per capita to the Tennessee League for Political Education. The Knoxville Stereotypers Local No. 128 is also contributing to the league.

Olin Moore, Fred Conner, and Ed James reported on the Southeastern Allied Printing Trade Conference in Atlanta, saying that co-operation in negotiations among the printing crafts is closer than at any time in history.

Oscar Edmonds reported on the Tennessee Federation of Labor convention in Nashville.

Charley Crowder and Ed Wells reported on the Virginia-Carolinas Typographical Conference in Norfolk, pointing out that Knoxville is lagging behind in scales for this area, being \$5.00 per week under Newport News, Va.

Editor's Note: The editor is a former member of the Knoxville local and congratulates his former associates upon the fine progress they are making.

GI SCHOOLING

Veterans who interrupted GI bill training and later went back into military service may continue the same studies after they are discharged the second time, even though July 25 is the deadline for starting new GI training courses, according to the Veterans Administration. However, training after the deadline date must be resumed within a reasonable period of time after the veteran returns once again to civilian life and must be completed by July 25, 1954.

Southern Bell, Union Arrive At Pay Accord

Confessions Of A Strikebreaker

By E. W. SCRIPPS, Founder of Scripps-Howard Newspaper Syndicate

I was 19 when I was interested in a certain corporation that employed skilled labor. The workmen declared a strike. There were less than 40 laborers, nearly all known to me personally. I had little respect for their wisdom or common sense. The strike began. It was significant of my self-conceit and my cheek that I went before the board of directors and told them that I had a way of breaking the strike if I were permitted to do certain things. I laid out before them my plan which seemed to them good.

Inside a week I had replaced every striker with as good a man as himself. No matter how! Then the old workmen came to me to tell what their agreements had been and what their present hardships were. As I said 'I knew all of them personally. At their solicitation I visited a number of their homes. I saw things that made me feel ashamed at the part I had been playing.

Without saying anything to the old-fossil directors, I undertook to make the acquaintance and learn something about the character of the strikebreakers. All or nearly all the strikers were married men with families. Every one of the strikebreakers was unmarried and comparatively young, some of them very young. By one means and another I and the old workmen persuaded every one of these newcomers to leave. In order to save the faces of the dignified, superior men who formed the directorate of the company, the old workmen made some concessions in their demands and were allowed to return. It was not more than two weeks later that business as usual was going on in that institution. The men whom I had been dealing with were members of the union. For the first time I learned from them what unionism meant and what its history had been. And then I had had this experience with the directors, who were really not directors, at all, but merely old fops-fops, who were themselves directed by an employe manager.

From that time on in such a small way as I could, I have been leveling my guns at the employer class, whether they be capitalists or mere borrowers of capital.

MEAT CUTTERS RISE POINTS NEW POLICY

WASHINGTON.—A new wage stabilization policy is evolving.

Latest important link to be forged was Wage Stabilization Board approval of a 9 cents an hour general wage increase for more than 200,000 workers in the packing-house industry.

The workers are represented by the AFL Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen and the CIO United Packinghouse Workers.

WSB approved the 9 cents, which pierced the old 10 per cent ceiling set last February. It referred to a special panel an additional two cents an hour pay boost to correct intra-plant inequities.

Public and labor members approved the contract over industry opposition. WSB Chairman George W. Taylor said:

"We are fully aware that this decision looks in the direction of a general policy." Earlier, Economic Stabilization Director Eric Johnston had approved a cost-of-living escalator for 1,000,000 railway workers and had given instructions to the newly-reconstituted tri-partite wage board to revise the February 15 decision which froze wages at 10 per cent above the January, 1950, level.



MAURICE J. TOBIN Secretary, U. S. Department of Labor

Tobin Lauds The Merchant Marine

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin lauded the achievements of the American merchant marine in a National Maritime Day statement issued May 22. He said the record of these seamen both in times of stress and in peacetime "will remain forever indelibly imprinted in the minds of free, peace-loving and brave men."

Tobin's statement follows:

"When the record of the current tense period we are going through in the increasing struggle to hold aloft the glorious banners of democracy and freedom is finally etched in history, the American merchant marine will be prominently mentioned on many pages.

"The heroism of the sailors who man our merchant ships has been exemplified on more than one occasion during the past year. Thousands of refugees and troops have been evacuated from battle-torn sectors in Korea by the gallant men who again met the challenge of an emergency and did their job well and nobly in the face of enemy fire.

"The American merchant marine is a salient part of our heritage and our history. It has had a vital effect on our country's economy; the United States had to have a strong merchant marine to emerge as the most powerful and democratic Nation in the world.

"It is a privilege on National Maritime Day to salute the men of the vast merchant fleet for their splendid achievements of the past. Their record in times of stress as well as in peacetime will remain forever indelibly imprinted in the minds of free, peace-loving and brave men."

PRICES 9.6 PER CENT ABOVE YEAR AGO

Washington.—Retail prices of goods and services bought by moderate-income urban families rose again between March and April.

The Consumers' Price Index released by the U. S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that all major groups in the index rose fractionally except food and fuel, electricity and refrigeration. The largest increase (.05 per cent) was in the house-furnishing group. The retail food price index declined 0.2 per cent and the fuel, electricity and refrigeration group index was 0.1 per cent lower than in March.

The index for April 15, 1951, was 184.6 (1935-39 equal 100), 0.1 per cent above March 15, 1951. This was 8.5 percent higher than the index for June, 1950 (pre-Korea) and 9.6 per cent above a year ago.

The decline of 0.2 per cent in food prices between March 15 and April 15 brought the index to 225.7 per cent of the 1935-39 average; 11.1 per cent above last June; and 14.4 per cent above a year ago. This was the first month average food prices have declined since February, 1950. Lower food prices were reported in 38 of the 56 cities surveyed.

Southern Bell Telephone Company and the Communications Workers of America-CIO on June 2, 1951, in Atlanta reached agreement on a new contract covering more than 45,000 telephone employees in 9 states, including those at Atlanta. The contract runs for one year.

G. D. Garner, Vice President in charge of personnel for the company, said the contract provides pay increases of approximately 19 per cent in every pay rate, the increase ranging from \$3.00 to \$7.50 a week, depending on length of service and job classification.

"The agreement will be submitted to the Wage Stabilization Board for approval," Mr. Garner said. "Terms of the agreement are believed to be within the Board's stabilization formula, but because of some doubt as to the meaning of some of its provisions, the Board's approval is being requested."

Approximately 80 per cent of the wage increase will become effective upon approval of the Wage Stabilization Board.

The agreement will add \$12,500,000 annually to the cost of providing telephone service in the South, Mr. Garner said. He said that with costs already having gone up faster than telephone rates, increases in telephone rates have become imperative.

"Considering the new agreement, telephone rate increases authorized since 1939 are falling short by about \$32,500,000 annually of covering the cost of wage increases granted over the same period, to say nothing of other increased costs," Mr. Garner asserted.

"The new agreement protects the interests of telephone customers and telephone employees. It places telephone wages in satisfactory relationship with wage levels prevailing in the South for jobs comparable to telephone jobs. A wage survey which we recently completed showed that there has been a general upward movement in pay scales in industry since the last Southern Bell wage increase. The wage increases for Southern Bell employees were, therefore, justified by the facts and are in the interest of the public so that highly effective forces of skilled telephone people can be maintained to render the service the public expects and demands.

"We are pleased that the Union and the Company have arrived at an agreement harmoniously at the bargaining table."

DON'T DELAY DPA DISALLE WARNS

WASHINGTON.—Price Administrator Michael V. DiSalle warned that Congress should pass a Defense Production Act by June 30 to replace the present law expiring then.

He told the United Labor Policy Committee that a 90-day extension of the present law could result in no law at all with disastrous consequences to the country.

He urged United Labor to insist on passage of a strengthened law by the June 30 deadline.

40c HR. MINIMUM SET FOR PUERTO RICO CHINAWARE WORKERS

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Effective June 25, a minimum wage rate of 40 cents an hour will apply to employees within the provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act in the semi-vitreous and vitreous-china food utensils division of the clay and clay products industry in Puerto Rico.

The new minimum, under a wage order issued by Granville Grimes, Jr., Acting Administrator of the U. S. Labor Department's Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, replaces the present 35-cent rate.