

THE DULIN TIMES

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STATE LAND TAX

Recently Representative J. K. Powell of Whiteville, nominee for the State Senate from Columbus county, reported that he had been hearing that the 1951 General Assembly would be asked to levy a State ad valorem tax on property for school purposes. Publication of the Powell report brought no denial of such intentions from Governor Scott or any spokesman for his office.

And neither the report nor the absence of denial is cause for surprise in view of the fact that the Governor favored a land tax early in the 1949 legislative session.

The North Carolina Economy Advocate, edited by J. Paul Leonard, has reproduced a photostatic copy of a letter written by Representative Kerr Craige Ramsay of Salisbury to Governor Scott on August 26 last year. In that letter Mr. Ramsay told the Governor:

"On the night of February 9, 1949, at the Executive Mansion, almost everybody present was astounded to learn of your proposed address to the Legislature on the following. In that address you recommended spending an additional 23½ million dollars per year for General Fund purposes, and you made no positive recommendations about how to raise the money except to levy a tax on land under the so-called Foundation Plan. I could not support you in this reversal of policy and told you so, as you very well know."

So there is evidence of rather long standing that Governor Scott favored a levy of a State land tax. Presumably he has not changed his mind, but the 1949 Legislature gave him so little support and encouragement that he did not press for such a measure at that time.

No one should be greatly surprised if an ad valorem tax to increase the State's revenue is proposed and urged when the General Assembly convenes next January.

For generation the State levied an ad valorem income taxes and not even any heavy gasoline tax. In 1933 the General Assembly abolished the State ad valorem tax, leaving that source of revenue exclusively to the counties and municipalities. That policy should not be abandoned.

— The Charlotte Observer

Southeastern All Star Basketball Conference; Official Schedule

ALL GAMES 8:00 P. M.

JAN. 17, 1951
Atkinson at Burgaw
Kenansville at Wallace
Chinquapin at Magnolia

JAN. 31, 1951
Kenansville at Burgaw
Atkinson at Chinquapin
Wallace at Magnolia

FEB. 7, 1951
Burgaw at Magnolia
Atkinson at Kenansville
Chinquapin at Wallace

FEB. 14, 1951
Chinquapin at Burgaw
Wallace at Atkinson
Magnolia at Kenansville

TEAM MANAGERS

Burgaw - Fred Taylor
Atkinson - David DeVane (home address Watha, N. C.)
Magnolia - Sam Carr
Kenansville - Jones c/o Drug Store
Chinquapin - O. J. Register
Wallace - Robert Watson

SPEAKER'S RACE RESULTS

GOSH - WHAT A
LOT OF LIARS!

ROSTER

TAYLOR

Life of Action

Lesson for January 16, 1951

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:21-29. DEVOTIONAL READING: Psalms 145:19-21.

THEY say that in four regions of the United States there are four different questions which are asked of newcomers. In the New England states they ask, "How much have you got?" In the South where pedigrees are so much treasured, they ask: "Who was your grandfather?" But out in the wide-open west they have only one question: "What can you do?"

Action in Religion

IT is a fair question. If the answer is "Nothing," then it does not make any difference at all what a man can answer to the other three questions.

To be sure, they look at this differently in the Orient. According to the ancient philosophy of the East, it is only the inferior man who rushes around doing things. The superior man sits and thinks. The West's admiration for action, and the Orient's admiration for contemplation, enter into religion itself.

The typical Oriental "saint" may be a man who never turned his hand to a piece of work in all his life. The typical western "saint" is likely to be a very busy and active sort of person.

It is all the more interesting that Jesus combined both the western and the eastern ideas of religion. He was a man of prayer and meditation, yet a man of strenuous life too.

Life of Action

THE Gospel by Mark, reliable tradition claims, actually comes from Simon Peter. During Peter's missionary travels he used to speak often about the life and work of Jesus, and young John Mark would take down notes of what he said. Then later Mark worked up into a connected "gospel" many of those story-sermons. It is easy to believe the tradition, because this gospel sounds so much like what would appear to Peter, a man of action.

At any rate, in Mark we have very little said about Jesus' teaching, a great deal said about what he did. Jesus does not have a spare minute, not a day off.

What about the rest of us? Suppose some biographer were to write up you who read these lines. Suppose he could use in his story only your actions, not your words or ideas. Would there be enough material for him to write a book?

Words of Power

WHILE Mark almost never tells us what Jesus taught, he does tell us that Jesus was a teacher. In describing the synagogue-service in Capernaum Mark tells us the people were astonished, and even two demon-possessed men were struck down with terror.

What Jesus said that astonished the people and alarmed the demons we do not know. Possibly Peter, who was there, may have been too busy watching people's faces to hear what Jesus was saying. However that may be, Jesus is here introduced to us not only as a doer but as a thinker and teacher.

Life is not all action; it is also thought. Jesus' acts were full of power; so and not less so were his ideas, words, teachings. Look at the rest of us again: We may be full of talk, but how much power is there in our ideas?

Straightway

ONE word is found many times in Mark's stories of Jesus: "Straightway" as the older versions have it—that is, immediately. It is not just Mark's style. It is his way of bringing out something important about Jesus' life and habits.

There were no blank spaces, no pages unwritten, no empty gaps, no waiting-around, in Jesus' life. In his life one activity followed on the heels of another. He had no time to waste, and he wasted none.

Let the honest reader try to make a realistic budget of his time. At the end of a week let him draw up a kind of chart showing how he expects to spend his 16 waking hours each day—so much for work, recreation, study and so forth. Then at the end of the week let him add himself: Where did my time go? He will often have to admit that he did not really live the whole day, any day,—only parts of it. Living as a Christian means living one's full time, living one of those 16 hours a day.

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T.Y.N.D.A.L.L.
FUNERAL HOME
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Funeral Directors - Embalmers
Ambulance Service Day or Night

Scott Summers

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 8.—Governor Scott's ability as a salesman likely will determine the length of the 1951 legislative session, in addition to determining the amount of the budget.

As predicted here some weeks ago, the Advisory Budget Commission recommended a balanced budget. This totaled \$303,000,000 in General Fund expenditures for the two years -- an all-time record -- but left out pay raises for teachers, continuation of merit pay raises for State employees, increasing reserves of the retirement system, state aid for hospital building, and permanent improvements.

The governor, in his budget message, called for addition of some \$6 million dollars for the biennium to the general fund budget. With this added money he would grant the teachers a \$3,200-\$3,300 (certified) salary scale, keep the salary increment -- or pay raise -- setup for state employees, provide some \$6,500,000 for the Medical Care Commission hospital building program, take care of Civil Defense, grant additional auditors to the Revenue Department, put \$10,000,000 in the permanent improvements fund to help finish buildings already authorized, build a TB hospital at Chapel Hill, add a psychiatric wing to the new hospital at UNC, and construct a diagnostic laboratory for the service of North Carolina's growing poultry and livestock industries at N. C. State College.

To do this, the governor recommends elimination of sales tax exemptions and restoration of the motion picture theatre tax. These two -- even if basic foods still were left untaxed -- would bring in enough to do the things he recommends.

Kerr Scott contends that these would not be new taxes -- the last two words being bugaboos to all legislators.

He says they are not "new" taxes at all. The elimination of sales tax exemptions is extension of a tax, he says, making it fairer. And the restoration of the motion picture tax is not a new form of taxation but a restoration of a tax from which a business was excused because it claimed a hardship which did not materialize." This latter tax was taken off theatres during World War II when the motion picture men persuaded the 1945 Legislature that they faced great hardships because of the war.

Most of the lawmakers this year are committed to a line of action calling for "no new taxes."

So it would appear that the governor will have a selling job cut-out for himself in convincing them that doing away with sales tax exemptions and restoring the theatre tax does not come in the "new tax" bracket.

Two or three sentences in his special budget message Monday night show that he is well aware of this problem.

"The one thing that we can be sure of in this dark hour," he said, "is that everything we do must be first in the interest of our preservation as a people and as a democratic nation."

"Anything else -- everything else -- is secondary."

"It is my belief that this is no

time for new borrowing, or for new forms of taxes . . . It is also my earnest belief that neither should we jeopardize our future by permitting our services to deteriorate."

His recommendations in the special budget messages were not as expensive nor as expansive as conservatives in the Legislature had expected. Liberal forces probably will feel that the governor did not ask for enough.

The temper of this legislature,

however, is one that seems to indicate the lawmakers are in no mood to fool around. There will be hard,

and fairly long fights. But the

amount of the General Fund budget

will depend on Dairyman Kerr

Scott's selling ability.

Right now, it would seem as

though he has about a 50-50 chance.

Boys in the know around Capitol Hill are blaming Fred Royster's defeat in the House speakership on, of all things, the fact that he supported Willis Smith in the Democratic senatorial primaries last Spring.

It seems that some of the former

Broughton forces -- of which Royster was a part -- thought that he

should have stuck with his former

buddies. When he switched, they

waited until the speakership race

to strike back.

Ironically, Frank Taylor of

Wayne -- the new speaker -- is

generally classed as a conservative,

but he supported Frank Graham.

Although the ballot counting was

stopped at 39 for Taylor and 39

for Royster, it is believed that the

vote would have run to 66 for Tay-

ler and 41 for Royster if it had

been completed.

Division of the House on a lib-

eral-conservative basis is believed

to be much closer than that, how-

ever -- nearly an even split to be

exact.

Rumor has it that Haywood Rob-

bins, young Charlotte attorney re-

cently appointed to the State Board

of Education, is thinking about

his political wings with a shif-

ting

at the office of secretary of state

come 1952.

Incumbent Thad Eure reportedly

has it easy on the gubernatorial

race. That is strong on that subject,

however, since an "accidental"

trial balloon stuck in pre-election

jams around the state. The home-

towns down Gates-Hertford way

are boasting Thad's stock.

Robbins is a graduate of law

from Duke University, where he

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