

Editorial and Opinion

Tax Increases Are Certain

Tax increases will be necessary to meet the Korean situation but this will be a small matter compared with the amount of taxes to put the nation on a permanent ready-for-war basis.

There will be much pressure applied to the Members of Congress by interested groups in an effort to get the tax levied "against somebody else." Many Americans, thoroughly patriotic and loyal, will do their best to dodge any part of the load necessary for the defense of this country.

In this connection, the Congress should not hesitate to apply rather severe levies against profits arising out of war. It is unconscionable to permit war industries to make exorbitant profits while American men are giving their lives on the battlefields.

In our previous wars, there have been individuals and corporations lustily engaged in "business as usual." Their profits have not been reached by the government, with the result that practically every community has group of business men who have made enormous profits out of the prosecution of wars.

Already, there are indications that the nation will be forced to pay higher prices by those taking advantage of war psychology and that the Government itself, in purchasing arms, equipment and supplies for its fighting men, will be forced to pay prices that include extraordinary profits for business concerns.

We do not know whether effective action can be taken to control the war profiteers, or not, but we certainly think that the Congress and the Government, acting together and with real determination, might be able to prevent the nation from being mulcted in connection with its defense and war expenditures.

Discouraging Hoarding

Officials charged with the handling of our food products have been somewhat alarmed by the tendency of many citizens to unduly accumulate supplies of various articles, particularly those which the citizens think may soon be rationed.

Hoarding will not do much good, for just as soon as a commodity is put on the rationed list, each person may be required to make an affidavit as to the supply on hand, and whatever that amount is, it will more than likely be deducted from the quantity which the citizen will be allowed to buy under the rationing system.

The only kind of rationing system which should be put into effect, if officials come to the conclusion that rationing is necessary, is a compulsory plan. Advance hoarding should be broken up by a strict inventory of each one's supplies, verified by spot checking, if necessary, and searching for any undue supplies concealed by greedy citizens.

No patriotic man or woman should resent any necessary police activities to make any rationing system fair and equal to everybody.

THE SANDHILL CITIZEN HAS

Kind Word For 'Good Old Days'

Although we welcome labor saving automatic tobacco curers that make lighter the tasks of our farmers, we still get a thrill from the scent of wood smoke in the air on a warm August night, arising from a barn where some one is tending a wood-fed furnace.

In the old days, the night air was pungent for miles around in tobacco-growing sections and the glow of furnaces were friendly spots of color across the fields and among out buildings on the farms.

At the barn, long oak logs lay in readiness to be thrust into the furnace and now and then pushed in a little further as the ends were consumed by flames. Farmers often didn't go to bed to a real bed for days, although there was usually a battered cot, covered with a quilt that had seen better days, to provide brief periods of rest that those watching the fires allowed themselves.

Tobacco barns were and still are on many farms the scene of much good talk. In the midst of the weariness hearts as they rested on their haunches before the furnace, hearts as they rested on their haunches before the furnace. And lucky was the farm that had a sharp-witted man around the barn to brighten the weary vigil of the night with jokes and laughter.

We don't believe a watermelon ever tastes as good as it does to parched throats at a tobacco barn on a hot summer night.

As we say, we're all for progress, but sometimes we miss the old days.

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 Thursday, August 17, 1950

PRESS COMMENT

Blame's Heat For Ed's Blast

NOTHING SERIOUS (Greensboro Daily News)

Mayor Edwin S. Lanier of Chapel Hill issued a statement deploring the tendency of people outside of his community to brand the university village as a center of Communism. It is true, he says, that well-known Communists get their mail through the Chapel Hill post office, and they have been on the streets; but it doesn't follow that the town is a breeding place for those who circulate the Stockholm petition.

Mayor Lanier's irritation is understandable, but we suspect some of it is a part of a natural rash produced by the August heat. There has been some talk about Chapel Hill and its Communists of late but no more than common; and we doubt if the average citizen holds or will attempt to hold the mayor and city council responsible for any part of the brashness of a few mush-brains attracted by higher education.

Indeed, our notion of proper procedure would be for Mayor Lanier to pay the censorious critics of Chapel Hill just about the mind he is paying the Chapel Hill Communists.

PACKING THEM TIGHT (Waynesville Mountaineer)

With two thousand Methodists here for the special conference this week end, one businessman, who is a leader in the Methodist church, cornered a good friend who is a Baptist, and secretly confided:

"The two thousand Methodists just about filled the community, but we could have taken care of four thousands Baptists with ease."

The Baptist listened intently, knowing the pay-off would be a crack at his denomination, said good-naturedly, "Go right ahead and express yourself, what is it?"

"Oh, nothing, except I've heard that Baptists are so narrow you can pack them in half the space as required for other denominations," said the Methodist as he threw his head back and roared—that is until he saw his wife giving him a cold stiff look—she was once a Baptist, and has often told him to keep such ideas to himself.

Then the Baptist laughed.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

We do not care to listen to people with few ideas who always repeat them.

The Korean campaign will be tough in the long run—on the North Koreans.

Our suggestion for hot weather: Read some poetry and sleep late in the morning.

Once upon a time there was a man who remembered his friend and repaid a favor.

A man with one eye doesn't see all that a man with two eyes can see but he sees enough.

When you touch the pocket-book nerve of a profession you can expect the ethics to disappear.

A mere scholar, who knows nothing but books, must be ignorant even of them.

— William Hazlitt.



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Right 'Er Wrong



Man-Made Aurora Is Being Produced At Planetarium

Chapel Hill — A man-made aurora is being produced in the Morehead Planetarium at the University here during the demonstrations of the new show, "Sun Spots and Human Affairs," according to Director Roy K. Marshall.

The new show is being given each night at 8:30 p.m. and at 3 p.m. matinees on Saturdays and Sundays.

William D. Bulloch of the Planetarium staff expedited the construction of a large glass glow tube by two technicians of the Chemistry Department of the University. Dana E. Samson, glass-blower, and Arthur R. Bennett, mechanic, prepared the tube in short order. It will be pumped practically free of air in each demonstration of the new show.

A 15,000-volt electrical discharge is fed into the tube, and

the few remaining molecules of air will glow in strange and interesting fashion, Dr. Marshall said.

"Just as we can make the air in the glow tube shine by electrical excitation," he explained, "so sun spots regions sent out electrical particles which constitute the discharge that makes our high atmosphere glow when we see displays of the Northern Lights."

Sun spots produce many other effects on terrestrial affairs, he said. Precipitation, growth of trees, length of rabbit fur, radio transmission and many other earthly matters have been linked with sun spots, and these ideas will all be presented in the new showing. A display of Northern Lights will be simulated, with streamers, streaks and arches as they are to be seen in nature.

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CAPITAL REPORTER

Scott Summers

Raleigh — Rural schools will be opening in a couple of weeks, and the State had made big plans to provide around 1,000 new school buses.

Most of them will be ready. But a lot of school kids will ride to school in old, ramshackly buses because one firm—Hackney Brothers of Wilson—has failed to live up to their contract.

Their failure may cost them as much as \$150,000, but it won't help get several hundred school buses out where they're needed badly.

April 7 the State Division of Purchase and Contract signed a contract with Hackney Brothers (T. J. Hackney of Wilson is the firm's president) to build 450 school bus bodies. The state was to provide the chassis—delivery of which began to Hackney on May 10. Hackney Brothers, under the contract, were to have delivered buses beginning 30 days after that at the rate of 7 per cent per week until all were finished—which would have given the State the last of the buses by September 1.

Thirty-two buses were due by June 9. But none were delivered. By July 13, 157 buses were due. But Hackney had delivered none.

On July 14, Williams wrote Hackney asking a written explanation as to why no buses had been delivered to him. Williams added that unless Hackney took immediate action, the State would go where it could to get the job done.

Hackney replied July 18, stating that a shortage of steel (20-gauge, stretcher-level steel, he called it) was causing the hold-up. He said he had a contract with a "reliable" steel mill but that the steel had not been delivered as yet. Hackney claimed that he still could get the buses to the school system in time if he could get the steel.

But his capacity is rated at 50 buses per week. Thus it would take at least nine weeks after getting the steel—which had not been done at this writing—to fill the contract.

As of August 10 some 350 bare chassis still were standing at Hackney's. The Wilson outfit still had no steel, but claimed it had a bill of lading showing that the steel was being shipped.

Williams said he will give the Hackney outfit a "reasonable" time to get the steel and begin delivering the other 300 buses.

"But we can't break faith with the school kids," Williams said. "These buses were to have been ready by the beginning of school and we're going to get them out as near that time as possible. If we have to, we'll place the contract for the other 300 buses with another firm and Hackney will have to pay the difference between his bid and the cost plus extra freight."

Williams said the only company that had even "nibbled" on the idea of building the 300 buses wanted \$500 more for each bus than Hackney's contracted price. This would mean that Hackney Brothers would have to pay the \$500—each difference—which would amount to \$150,000—plus any extra freight charges. Added to the \$9,000 they already have lost, the final figure might run to a \$175,000 bite out of Hackney's pocket.

In contrast to the Hackney failure, is the action of the Thomas body-building firm of High Point. On April 7, Thomas got a contract on 250 buses. The firm turned them out on schedule—did such a good job that in June the High Point firm got a contract for 225 more buses. Thomas still is on schedule—apparently isn't having any steel problems. And the buses meet contract specifications, too.

The most ironical thing about the fight over giving school teachers a chunk of the \$13,000,000 (surplus or cash balance, take your pick) is that nobody in the legislature thought there would be one when they passed that little section known as 20 1-2 of the appropriations bill.

That's the little piece of fancy writing that says teachers should get a retroactive pay raise last June 30 "if there was a surplus."

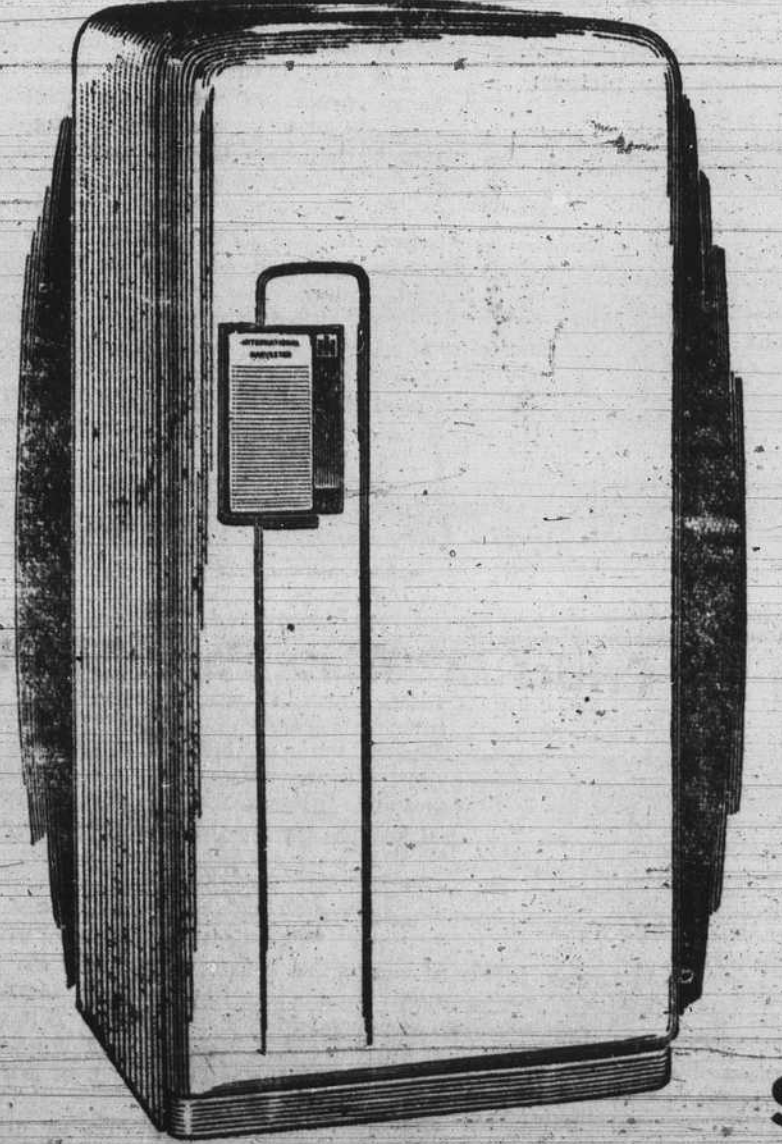
In fact, the only speculation was as to how much of a deficit the State would have at the end of the 1949-50 fiscal year.

Now the teachers—particularly the N. C. Education Association—claim there's a \$13,000,000 surplus. Assistant Budget Director Dave Coltrane calls it "cash balance." (Continued on Page 3)

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