

Editorial and Opinion

Might Be The Straw

Another issue in the fight for Americanism not to be overlooked by the current legislature, we hope, is the ratification of the Amendment to the Constitution of the United States limiting the President to two terms of four years each.

This amendment was submitted by the Congress to the States in March 26, 1947 and unless three-fourths, or 36 states, ratify it before March 26, 1954, it fails. Latest word is that 24 states have given approval.

The belief that every boy in the United States has a chance to be President has always been a part of our national thinking. Limiting the tenure of the President to eight years is not only keeping with our national tradition, it is the essence of American Democracy. Allowing continued multiple terms beyond the second serves to further reduce the possibilities for obtaining this most coveted and most powerful of all political posts.

The no third term precedent which, by usage and custom, had served the purpose of limiting the Presidents term in office was one of the great casualties of World War II. From this time on every President, regardless of Party, will be persuaded by pressure groups, using him to their advantage, to force his renomination and attempt to force his reelection as long as he may live. Such a system serves to throttle consideration of up-and-coming presidential timber and leads to many undesirable practices wholly foreign to our American tradition.

We hope the North Carolina legislature will follow through with formal ratification during this term for to fail might be the straw to ultimately destroy our form of government and the American Way of Life.

Unification In Prayer

We are told that religion is more popular today than ever before. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale attributes this to the fact that everyone is mixed up, confused, and is seeking the score. Time was when most of us took things for granted and depended on other factors, man-made factors, to balance the boat.

If one person today can be found that isn't perplexed he must either be a happy man or a very crazy one. More and more the average person is turning to the church as a solution for guidance. More and more governments are calling for divine guidance. It is as if the whole world is in a house of mirrors and trying to find the proper way out, runs into more detours and false impressions.

Thousands of cities throughout the world on Friday will pause in the middle of a busy day and pray. The world Day of Prayer this year will find all races, creeds and beliefs joining in one voice to the Divine Being for comfort and guidance.

It makes no difference if a special service cannot be attended, but millions of people during the day will pause and although eloquent prayers may be uttered the important fact is that millions of people will be unified as they have never been before.

Groundhog Outlook

For the fifth time in the past six years the groundhog emerged from his abode last week, took one quick look and darted back in.

A lot of folks think that it means we will have forty days of bad weather. It is too bad that his fast entrance and exit doesn't mean just that.

In the good old days the groundhog turned weather prophet, and quite a few folks gauged their planting schedule by his performance. But now it is not the case. Gerald, the Groundhog, gets tired of living alone in his cold, dark, damp, solitary hole. He craves a bright, warm, friendly world. After a deep sleep he is accustomed to sticking his head out the door to see what the score is. Years ago, he came out in February to take a look at the thermometer. Now he comes out to just see if it is safe outside.

Five years ago he came out and stayed. The boys were coming home, prices looked good, the United Nations was getting started and it looked to Gerald as if the world might not be too bad a place to live. Since then he has stayed in his isolated abode.

Last week was possibly the worst fast look he has had in years. He saw without even looking the N. C. State Legislature in session, Milton Berle on television, a new war, Senator Joe McCarthy, parking meters, higher taxes, and a quick freeze, and worse of all didn't even glimpse a faint hint of brighter skies.

Move over, Gerald!

Tom Bost in the Greensboro Daily News . . . "And all the testimony of all the statisticians who make it a business to know shows that there is not the slightest difference between the casualty rates of ABC and dry counties; that in the institutions which treat alcoholics there is no difference between the boozers who come from wet and the guzzlers which are grown in the dry counties. As Congressman Abbie said, "we have liquor and prohibition. Who is doing the kicking?"

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PRESS COMMENT

A Monument Better Forgotten

(The Raleigh Times) Despite the Korean War, despite a menacing economic picture and despite some fancy footwork by a group of State officials just prior to the opening of the 1951 General Assembly, North Carolina may get a million-dollar livestock judging arena whether it wants it or not.

It is the opinion of The Raleigh Times that the best interests of North Carolina would be served by an order from the Nation's Capital delaying the start of the State Fairgrounds Coliseum until a more appropriate time.

The approval by both houses of the Assembly of a committee report which found little fault with the building during a national emergency of a highly non-essential and extremely costly edifice for the judging of livestock—this is an unfortunate end to a matter which had an unfortunate beginning.

It must be said of those State officials who decided it wise to approve the contract for the coliseum just hours before the Legislature began its 1951 sessions that:

1—They knew what they wanted; 2—They were determined to get it regardless; and 3—They were clever enough to grab it before the people of North Carolina said "No, let's wait a bit."

There are other aspects of the coliseum controversy which make this unhappy affair even worse. For example, there are the secret sessions which the committee—co-chaired by Senator James H. Pou Bailey of Wake—held behind closed doors. There also is the questionable figure of from \$200,000 to \$250,000 given as the cost to North Carolina of getting out of its contract commitment—a figure which still has not been documented. Also, there is the tongue lashing which the Governor of North Carolina dealt a freshman representative from Wake County simply because the latter had the courage to disagree with His Excellency.

If the State Fairgrounds Coliseum is finished as now scheduled it will constitute in part a monument to matters which a lot of North Carolinians will like to forget.

Second Payment GI Insurance Dividend In April

Washington — The Veterans Administration has announced it will begin paying a second insurance dividend of \$685,000,000 in April to about 8,000,000 veterans—and they will not have to write in for it.

The agency could not say what will be the most any one holder of a National Service Life Insurance policy will receive. But it was certain to be much less than the maximum of \$528 paid in the first dividend.

The money represents "profits" on the National Service Life Insurance program under which servicemen are entitled to take out as much as \$10,000 worth of government insurance. The policies can be converted when the holders return to civilian life.

On the basis of the number of veterans receiving payments and the total amount of money to be disbursed, the average payment would be about \$85. But individual payments could vary widely.

In the first dividend, a surplus of \$2,800,000,000 was available for distribution among 16,000,000 policy holders. It covered the period from 1950, when the NSLI law was passed, through the anniversary date of policies in 1948.

The new dividend will take up where the first one left off and cover through the anniversary date of policies this year.

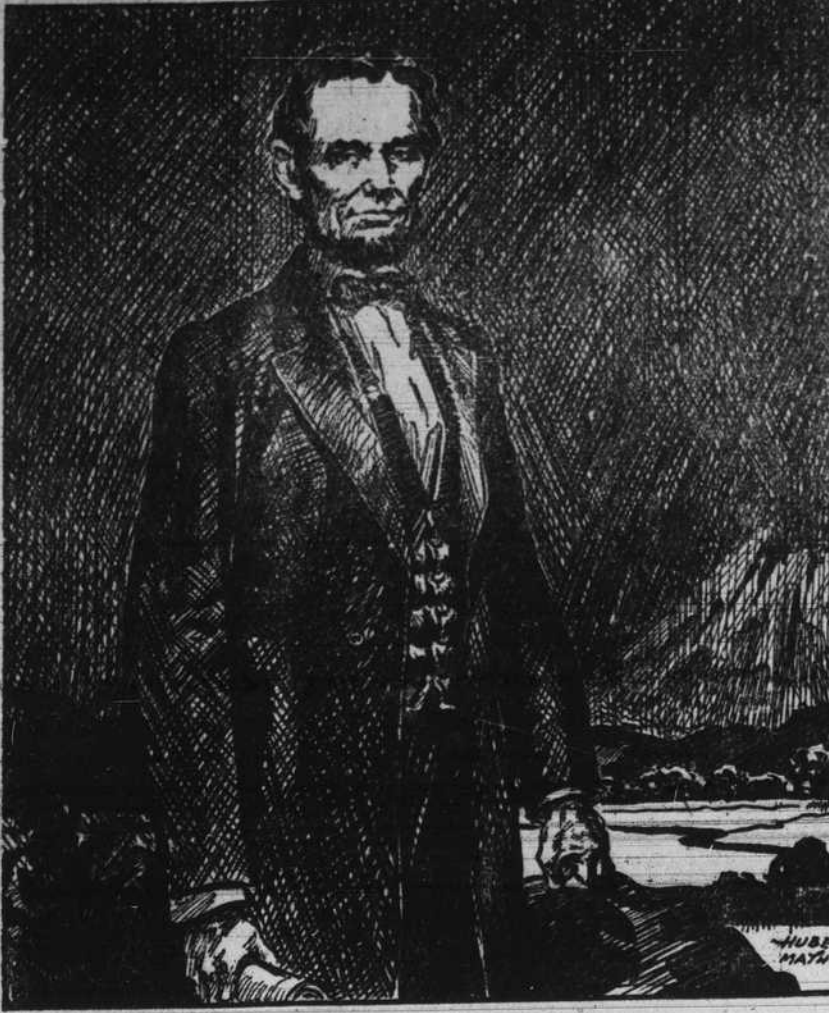
Anyone who took out a policy before 1951 and held it in force for three months or longer during 1948, 1949 and 1950 will be eligible.

This time, it will not be necessary for policyholders to apply for the forthcoming payment. VA automatically will send their checks to the last address on its records.

In the 227-year-old Beaufort, N. C., cemetery is the grave of a pre-Revolutionary English army officer, who, while dying, requested that he be buried in his uniform with all accoutrements and that his coffin be placed in an upright position.

There were only 37 work stoppages in North Carolina due to labor-management disagreement in the 1949-50 biennium. They involved less than 1/4 of 1 per cent of work hours lost from this cause in the entire United States.

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Here was a man to hold against the world
A man to match the mountains and the sea
The color of the ground was in him, the red earth,
And when he fell in whirlwind, he went down
As when a lordly cedar, green with boughs,
Goes down with a great shout upon the hills
And leaves a lonesome place against the sky.
— EDWIN MARKHAM

The world's record striped bass (rockfish) was landed in the Albemarle Sound near Edenton, N. C., in 1890. It was a 125-pounder taken in a net.

Improved methods helped North Carolina farmers produce 81,955,000 bushels of corn in 1950 on the same acreage that grew 77,525,000 bushels in 1949.

Legislative Summary

NOTE: This is another of a series of weekly summaries of the work of the North Carolina General Assembly of 1951. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.

With the opening of a new calendar month some stock-taking is in order. The number of bills introduced this session is 28 short of the comparable 1949 figure. The general impression that members of the 1951 legislature have been more interested in public measures than in mending local fences has some statistical backing. At this point in 1949 local bills represented 40% of the total; this time they account for only 27% of the introductions. While no one public bill this year is as controversial as the secondary road bond bill of 1949, there are more bills posing more individual decisions of significance.

Appropriations.

Since the General Assembly has decided not to intervene in the construction of the State Fair Coliseum, it can concentrate its attention on the general appropriations picture which is still far from clear. The appropriations committees have moved from the \$450 million biennial budget bill to hearing requests from state agencies for reinstatement of funds not approved by the makers of that bill, requests which totaled over \$14 million in the first three hearings. Prominent among the proposals still to come are those for additional funds for public schools by the State Board of Education and for \$10 million to supplement 1949 permanent improvements appropriations, both supported by the governor in his budget message. Other demands embodied in legislation, such as those proposed by the United Forces for Education this week (see below), will probably swell the total during the next 3 weeks before the committees, with public hearings completed, can get down to the job of deciding who is to get how much.

Public Schools
On Wednesday each house received 7 bills (identical) carrying appropriation to finance the program of the United Forces for Education. If passed these would call for a salary scale of \$2400-\$3600 for A-grade certificate holders and an equivalent scale for other teachers and administrative personnel. Teachers would be hired for an additional month's work in which to prepare for school opening and in which to make out final reports. The teacher load, figured on average daily attendance, would be reduced from 32 to 30 pupils, and teachers would have 10 days cumulative sick leave per year. Principals would be able to hire clerical assistance. Local schools could hire more attendance officers, and more new school buildings could be purchased. Turning bills over to the appropriations committee, the Senate education committee recommended that the legislature write no pay schedule in the law but leave the State Board of Education to fix salaries on the basis of appropriate funds. Based on estimates of the State Board of Education, the proposal for a \$2400-\$3600 salary scale would cost about \$30 million more for the biennium than the amount already recommended by the Advisory Budget Commission.

State Taxation

Twenty-three legislative days ago Governor Scott suggested elimination of sales tax exemptions and reinstatement of a three-cent gross receipts tax to raise the \$10 million he feels should be beyond the Appropriations Bill list. While bills to authorize the expenditures proposed by the governor have not been waiting no bill to raise any new money has been introduced. While the finance committees have received about 25 proposals for amending the tax laws, the bulk of these amendments seeks to clarify vague

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The smoothest distance between 2 points



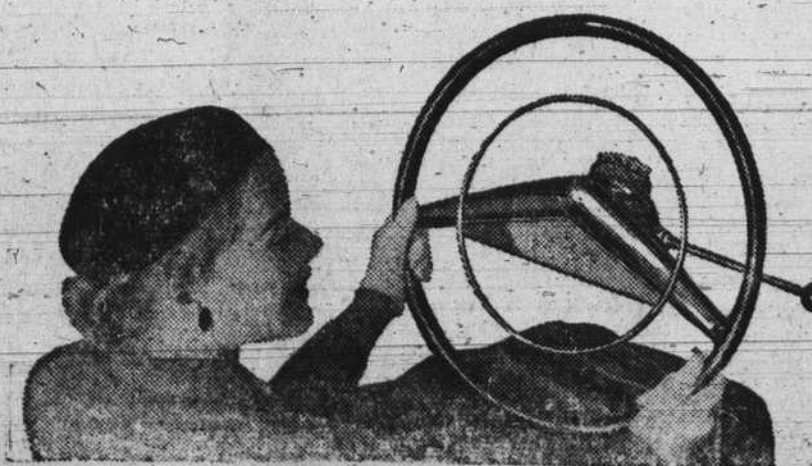
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