

Editorial And Opinion

Congratulations, 4-H'ers!

The observance of National 4-H Club Week, March 5-13, is an opportunity to salute the more than two million 4-H boys and girls who are taking important strides toward finer citizenship. Whether it be learning better care and operation of farm equipment or mastering a homemaking skill, 4-H members acquire initiative, responsibility and leadership. We commend them for their dedication to the fourfold development of Head, Heart, Hands, and Health through the 4-H program.

Fast - And Loose!

Asked in his press conference for his opinion of the Democratic income tax reduction bill, cutting cash taxpayer obligation by \$20, and adding \$20 to the exemption for each dependent, President Eisenhower expressed vigorous objection to the reduction and resentment of the fact that it is presented as an amendment to the corporation and excise tax bill and not "on its own merits".

In his lengthy reply to the question, the President recognized that "any proposal to reduce taxes is, of course, popular", but declared with some heat that since the Government "is still spending somewhat more than it takes in, we are reaching some kinds of heights in fiscal irresponsibility".

We can only agree with the President, that, under the present continuance of deficit spending, a reduction in taxes is illogical, unwise and carries with it a certain political aroma.

But whether or not we get this token reduction (which would save the average taxpayer but little, at a loss of \$2,800,000,000 to the Treasury) this Democratic maneuver brings two points into sharp focus. First, the Eisenhower pledge to balance the budget is still, in spite of all the pruning thusfar, a pious hope. Second, the opposition, with the notable exception of Senator Harry Byrd, Representative Martin Dies and a handful of other patriots, was jumping the gun on the President's hint of a Republican tax cut in 1956 contained in his budget message of last January.

As it looks from here, the only protection against such "fiscal irresponsibility" by either party is legislation to prevent our law-givers from appropriating money the Treasury hasn't got. A type of legislation to which the Congress has thusfar given the back of its hand.

Fair Price For Full Measure

The Senate, by a vote of 62 to 24, agreed with the House (which had voted 283 to 118) that Congressmen and the Federal judiciary should get more pay. The Senators were a little more spartan about the matter and voted themselves only \$7,500 a year as compared with the \$10,000 raise House members thought they should have.

In conference, it was quickly agreed to split the difference, and throw in five additional trips home per year at public expense. Thus, our solons will now receive \$23,500 a year, of which \$22,000 is salary, plus \$1,250 tax-free for office expense.

Actually, we think a man who measures up to a seat in Congress is worth at least \$25,000 a year — and having to live in Washington, needs it. But the idea that it pays for a year's work, not six months, should be taken more seriously. Somehow we doubt that those five extra trips home will help in that direction.

Scientific Nerves

A friend tells us of an old fellow who came limping into a gas station out in the county the other day. The operator asked him if it was his arthritis or his rheumatism that was bothering him.

"Neither one," replied the old gentleman, "according to the doctor... it's my scientific nerve."

What with the atom bombs bursting in the air over the Nevada desert, the Civil Defense authorities scolding us for not worrying more noisily about enemy attack, and trying to decide among themselves whether to tell us to get under the bed or cut and run... it could be the doctor is right. It could be that a lot of us are suffering, whether we're limping or not, from scientific nerves.

"Curiosity," Grandma used to say, "killed a cat."

But that execution, it is now apparent, was just a starter. In spite of all we've found out since then, our curiosity is unquenched. It may even lead us to the discovery of cures for both arthritis and rheumatism. But it looks as though we'll have to learn to live with our scientific nerves.

Legislative Summary

(NOTE: This is the seventh of a series of weekly summaries prepared by the legislative staff of the Institute of Government on the work of the North Carolina General Assembly of 1953. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.)

The past week brought a noticeable increase in the introduction of bills sponsored by State departments and agencies. By mutual consent, the two houses have agreed to hold Friday sessions late enough in the day to permit committees to meet in the morning. The president pro tem, Senator Jones of Pitt, reminded the senators on Friday of their rule requiring introduction of all local bills by March 1 and all bills prepared by State agencies by March 10. On Thursday afternoon the Joint Appropriations Committee heard several members suggest ways of reducing the spending recommended by the Governor and Advisory Budget Commission. This was the first clear indication there may be more than token efforts to balance the budget by some method other than increasing revenues. As expected, the water resources and higher education bills mentioned in earlier bulletins have aroused substantial interest. At a public hearing this week, heads of most of the state-supported colleges presented their views of the Higher Education Commission's plan to establish centralized supervision of the institutions of higher learning. The bill has now been referred to a subcommittee under the chairmanship of Rep. Senators Bunn and Kirkman in Womble of Forsyth. On Thursday introduced a water resources proposal plainly designed as an alternative to the one previously presented by the special commission which studied North Carolina's water resources.

Motor Vehicles

In each session of the General Assembly motor vehicles and highway safety are favorite subjects for new bills. The 1953 General Assembly is no exception, and each week finds additional proposals affecting the motoring public being offered. This week the Department of Motor Vehicles (primarily through the two roads committee chairman) began introducing its legislative program. Just as in each session since 1947, a compulsory mechanical inspection of vehicles has been proposed. The 1955 version is almost identical with that of 1953: It calls for annual inspection of a limited number of safety features on cars, to be done by licensed private inspection stations. Other Department bills would make multiple changes in the title and registration laws, the Financial Responsibility Act, and the Driver License Act—including one which would have the effect of extending the life of vehicle license plates would not begin until Feb 15 (instead of Jan 31 as is now the case), but the sale of plates would not begin until Jan. 1, a month later than the usual starting date... SB 194 makes evidence obtained through chemical analysis of the amount of alcohol in a defendant's blood admissible in evidence upon a charge of drunken driving, sets out presumptions of guilt or innocence depending upon the percentage of alcohol in the blood, and permits suspension of the defendant's driver license for refusal to submit to the chemical test. HB 385 authorizes the Motor Vehicles Department to set up a point system for driver license suspensions. Convictions for motor vehicle violations would be assigned points depending upon the seriousness of the offense, and the Department would suspend for an accumulation of a certain number of points within a year (the Department is to determine this number and publish it). Most widely publicized of all motor vehicle bills is the "whammy" bill, a proposal to curb use of radar and speed clocking devices. A House judiciary committee held public hearings on the bill, and a split vote, reported it favorably. After a time consuming wrangle on the floor, the House first defeated a motion to send the bill to the Roads Committee for further consideration (a move to "kill" the bill, proponents charged), and then reversed itself.

(See SUMMARY, Page 6)

"HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN IN THE MIRROR?"



Garden Time

Robert Schmidt

There is a growing demand for kinds of flowers that will keep well when cut and that can be easily used for hospital, church or living room arrangements.

For the person who is looking for a colorful and easy-to-grow cut flower, the gladiolus should prove most satisfactory. They will grow in any type soil as long as it is well drained and plenty of water can be supplied.

The should have full sunshine all day for best results. Go easy on the fertilizer, especially fertilizers rich in nitrogen. Care must be taken that the fertilizer does not come into contact with the bulb at planting time. Bulbs should be planted 4 to 5 inches deep and spaced from 4 to 6 inches apart in the row. For early blooms plantings may be made now in eastern North Carolina, during March in the piedmont and during April in the mountains. For a succession of blooms, make additional plantings at two to three week intervals. If you buy your bulbs at local stores select plump, high-crowned bulbs, they will give much better results than the large, flat, shallow ones.

The gladiolus fan who is greatly interested in new varieties will find that he can get good spikes of flowers from small to medium-sized bulbs listed as No. 3 and No. 4 size at much lower prices than he would have to pay for the larger sizes. Mixtures are usually cheaper in price than named varieties but there is a great satisfaction in know-

ing varieties by name. A few very fine varieties that are reasonably priced are: Snow Princess, Florence Nightingale, Margaret Beaton, Corona, Elizabeth the Queen, Picardy, Blue Beauty, Red Charm, Spotlight, Spic and Span, Patrol, Chamouny, Elmer's Sose, King David, and Burma. There are many other good ones in a wide range of colors.

In cutting the flowers, three or four of the lower leaves should be left in order to develop the new bulb for next year.

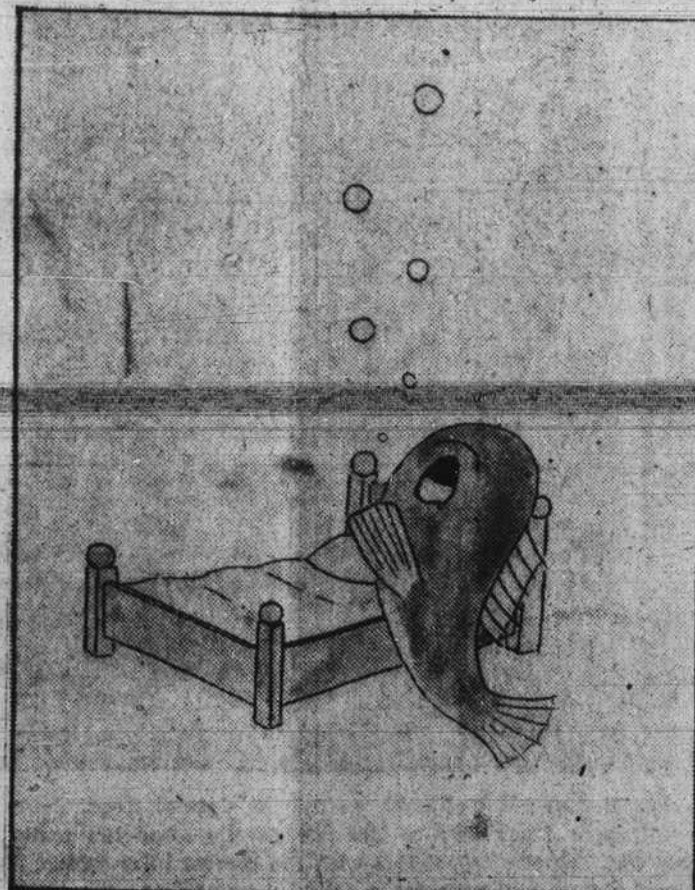
Thrips, small sucking insects, may damage the flowers—especially in hot dry weather. They can be controlled by spraying or dusting with DDT every week or 10 days.

ALARMS AND SOLUTIONS

There is no doubt that the alarms raised and the solutions offered by men like Wilson and Brandeis, members of one generation; were unlike those of Mitchell and Tugwell, members of another. The first called upon public authority to regulate; the second, to plan. And today, basically, the critics of big business—recognizing that it is an agency of power; fearful of the destruction of the individual's autonomy—are talking of the need for the assumption of responsibility that power connotes if it is to be socially acceptable, on the one hand, and the maintenance of countervailing forces (equally big, perhaps) on the other. —N. Y. Times Book Review

BUBBLES

By Jim Lee



"And when I grow up, I want to live in clean waters, please!"

Does Baseball Deserve Its Privileges?

It could be that organized baseball is in for some interesting times. The Supreme Court has ruled that not only the theater but also professional boxing, another form of entertainment, comes under antitrust acts.

Away back in 1952, ruling on an attempt to set up a third major league, the Federal, the Supreme Court affirmed that a baseball game was "local in its beginning and in its end." Therefore professional baseball could not be classed as interstate commerce. Congress, said the court, did not intend that it be subject to antitrust laws, has had the matter under consideration, but for 30 years (before 1922) has allowed baseball to develop on an assumption of its immunity.

This ruling was reaffirmed in 1953 on much the same grounds, and the court held that remedy for whatever evils may exist lay in legislation.

Now the high tribunal states it is not bound by its own decisions on baseball or by Congress' past intentions to assume that all forms of sport and entertainment are immune. And the cases before it being concerned with boxing and the theater, the court rules them subject to antitrust laws.

Associate Justice Frankfurter, dissenting, has some fun with a phrase in the original baseball opinion which held that transportation of players and equipment between state "is a mere incident." Says he:

When boxers travel from state to state, carrying their shorts and fancy dressing robes in a ditty bag, in order to participate in a boxing bout which is wholly interstate, it is now held by this court that the boxing bout becomes interstate commerce.

There seems little doubt that without some control over the contracts of players, organized baseball would have fallen apart by reason of the best players, hence the pennants, gravitating to the richest clubs in the biggest cities. But this series of decisions, while leaving baseball where it was legally, exposes it as a lone exception, soon, perhaps, to be challenged to prove to court or Congress that it deserves its privileges. — from Christian Science Monitor

A retiring college professor was giving a few words of advice to the new instructor. "In every class, you'll find one student who always wants to argue. Don't be too hard on him. He's probably the only one who's listening." — Farm and Ranch.

WASHINGTON REPORT

By BILL WHITLEY

FIGURES. The February issue of *The Progressive Farmer* has some interesting facts and figures about the incomes of various types of workers. They are included in an editorial that calls for quick action by Congress to help increase farm income. The basic argument set forth by the editorial is one for higher income for farmers at a time when operating costs are rising.

Quoting figures compiled by the magazine *U. S. News and World Report*, the editorial graphically shows how farmers, despite increased production, are suffering steady declines in income. Even in the lush year of 1951, the figures show, when farmers were averaging 107 per cent of parity for their products, they had an annual average net income of only \$1,718 as compared with \$3,416 for industrial workers.

HOME. When the figures are analyzed, they drive home that old, painful fact about per capita income in North Carolina.

To give a cross-section, 12 major income groups were listed. Of the 12, there are very few workers in the top six income groups in North Carolina. The groups earning the largest incomes—weekly incomes after taxes—are: factory workers, auto workers, steelworkers, soft-coal miners, machinery-manufacturing workers and farm implement workers. The lowest six groups, in which are included the bulk of the working people in North Carolina, are: railroad workers, school teachers, federal employees, textile workers, clothing

workers and farm owners. REVEALING. The most revealing fact in the 12 groups are the workers, who have the lowest net income of only \$37.24. The textile workers, which make up a large percentage of wage earners in North Carolina, are the third lowest income group, with a weekly net income of \$100. Another revealing fact of the 12 listed, with the exception of textile workers—have increased net income during the years anywhere from three dollars a week.

Farmers are earning an average of over five dollars less now than they were years ago. Textile workers make about two dollars less than they did five years ago. The school teachers earned the largest increase, more than in 1950. The largest gain has been by the steelworkers. They about seven dollars a week now than five years ago.

TOTAL? When the added up, it means that the two largest income groups in North Carolina—factory workers and steelworkers—make about eight dollars more than in 1950. The largest gain has been by the steelworkers. They about seven dollars a week now than five years ago.

Where the need for income lies, is obvious. By which these incomes increased, however, is the most troublesome of the day.

will be considered along with the commission appointed to study the matter.

Still another matter of importance to the people of the state is that of safety highways of the state. I have discussed this previously, but for the past few weeks it has become one of the most discussed questions of the 1955 session. This was by the action of judiciary committee number one when it with favorable action would for all purposes of the use of the "whammy" means of making our highways safer for those who wish to use them.

Those of us who stand use of any justifiable means to make the highways safer all in our power to defeat when it comes to the floor of the House, if by any chance it get by the committee to which it was sent in favor of report by the committee on Judiciary last week.

So far as Orange County concerned this 1955 session is unique in that no local bill has been introduced. Early in session I notified the local government units that I would introduce all bills that I approved. I have had only one suggested and that has to do with the election of the members of the Chapel Hill School Board to the people.

The suggestions of the Board for the Chapel Hill Administrative Unit will be considered by a member of the General's staff and a bill sent to the board's wishes presented to the House for consideration.

Something should be done to take care of human needs for water as well as the needs of industry. The 1953 legislature, at the suggestion of Governor Umstead, passed a resolution calling for the appointment of a commission to study the problem and make a report to this session of the legislature. As a result of its studies a bill has been prepared and offered to both bodies. Another bill by Senator Bunn of Nash

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SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS



VALIANT WORK. WASHINGTON — Washington witnessed an unusual ceremony during the past week when Mrs. Jessie Taylor, of Southport, North Carolina, was awarded the meritorious service medal by the United States Weather Bureau for her highly intelligent and valiant work during Hurricane Hazel.

LONG SERVICE. As one who has been a voluntary cooperative observer of the United States Weather Bureau for 55 of her 75 years, Mrs. Jessie Taylor has expert knowledge

of the tides and winds along the Atlantic coast in the South area. As a result of such knowledge, Mr. Taylor was able to give advance warning of the approach and course of the cane Hazel. Her action in doing undoubtedly resulted in the saving of many lives.

The News of Orange County

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