

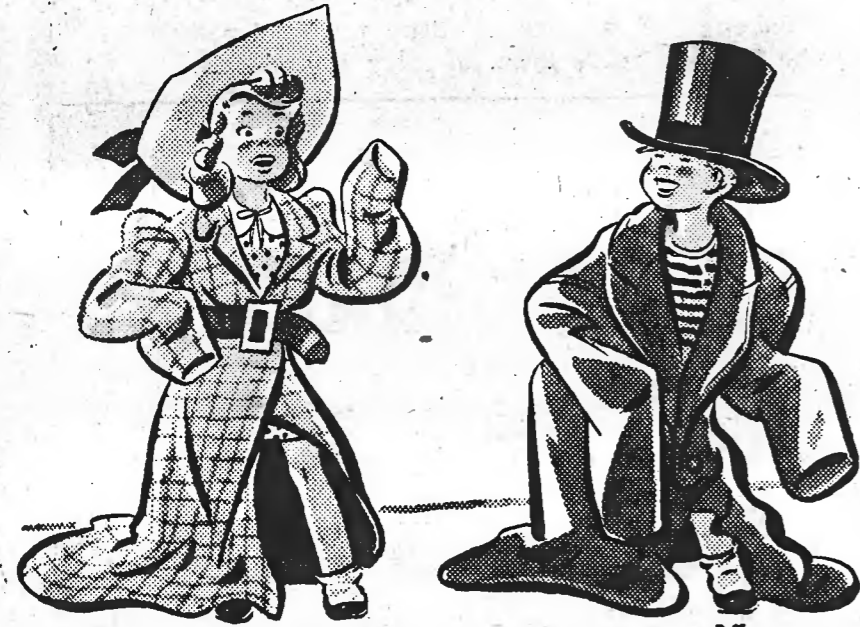
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## Raleigh Roundup

By Eula Nixon Greenwood

(Omitted Last Week)

**REVALUATIONS** — Nothing was said about it in the press, but Long John Skinner of Littleton, big wheel of the North Carolina County Commissioners Association, and Kerr Scott tossed some rather sharp darts at each other in the privacy of the governor's office here last week. What they had to say in that little meeting should be of interest to every landowner in the State.

Said Governor Scott to Long John Skinner: "Your commissioners are too conservative. When are you fellows going to get on the ball? It is time for an upward revaluation of property in North Carolina — all over the State."

With that, Skinner virtually hit the ceiling. What? Revalue property in these inflationary times? He told of the revaluation experiences of the 20's and of the foreclosures, etc., during the depression. He's agin it—dead agin it. However, Governor Scott has said privately during recent weeks that the value of property on the taxbooks is tremendously out of line with its actual monetary value.

It is his opinion that counties would not find it necessary to come crying for State aid for schoolhouses, for instance, if they had the proper tax programs at home. Of course, with an upward revaluation, the tax rate could be lower. Is property in your county on the tax books at a figure far below its actual value? Is this proper time to revalue property? The little Scott-Skinner controversy is exceedingly important at this time.

**NOT SO WELL** — The N. C. Employment Security Commission has approximately 800 employees, most of whom, it seems, have been in a lather for the past few weeks concerning the future of their head man, Henry E. Kendall, chairman of the Employment Security Commission. A native of Shelby and a brother of Editor H W Kendall, of the Greensboro Daily News, Henry was appointed by Governor Cherry to this position. He's made a good man, but was supposedly a Johnsonian Democrat, hence the jitters.

In Charlotte, resides one R. Brooks Price, \$3,600 field representative of the ESC, a strong Scott man and the brother of an ardent Scott disciple in Union County. The employees of ESC have heard for three months now that Price is turning heaven and earth to move to Raleigh, thus raising his salary exactly \$3,000 per year. Up until last week they were sure Kendall was on the way out. He may be. But Capus Waynick likes him. So does his brother in Greensboro. It begins to look as if Price may continue to reside in Charlotte. His campaign isn't going as well as early in the year.

Why is all this pretty dickerin' important? Mainly because virtually every department here is shrouded in girlish whispers about what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month.

**LADY ON THE BEACH** — Don't say who told you, but there is a very good chance that Miss Susie Sharpe, Reidsville attorney, will have the honor of being the first woman to grace the Superior Court bench in North Carolina. Scott likes to work precedents and herein lies his opportunity to do so and at the same time pull into his scope of influence an unusually fine legal brain. Since it is bad to discuss women's ages, particularly if they are unmarried, it is only important to remember that Miss Sharpe was old enough to vote for Scott three times last year. She and her father influenced many a ballot for the governor in Rockingham County.

**ALSO GWYNN?** — It is almost certain that Scott will have the opportunity to fill one or more State Supreme Court vacancies during his term of office. He doesn't have much choice if he wants to name somebody who was on his team, for the jurists flocked to Johnson. However, Judge Allen Gwynn of Reidsville was a Scott man, so look in that direction when the vacancy occurs.

**FLOUNDERING** — The Legislature is still floundering. In fact, the old heads here, including some of the solons themselves, agree that it is the "most disorganized" General Assembly they have ever known. That seems to be putting it a little strong, but there is undoubtedly some truth in the statement.

While Scott complains that there doesn't seem to be any leadership in the Legislature, the men who compose it say they are looking to Scott for leadership. Thus you have the stalemate. On roads, the governor has pointed the way: a one-cent increase in the gasoline tax and a \$200,000,000 bond issue. He asks that the gasoline tax be raised by the Legislature, but the Legislature seems to want the increase tied to the bond issue. That is, to let the people vote on both items. The executive and the legislative branches of the State are at odds on this issue.

**OTHER ISSUES** — On other issues, Governor Scott is pretty vague. On the one hand, he wants \$22,000,000 more for the operation of schools than the Advisory Budget Commission recommended. He wants \$800,000, also from the General Fund, for the State Agriculture Department. But — and this is the important point — he makes not one recommendation as to where this extra tax money is to come from. He said in his press conference last Friday afternoon that "it takes guts to go forward", intimating, evidently, that the Legislature does not have the "guts" to raise taxes. But he makes no suggestions as to where the Legislature can look to get these taxes. On the contrary, he recommends taking the sales tax off meals, which will cost the State around \$2,500,000, reducing the sales tax on farm machinery,

which will cost the State an estimated \$900,000, and the possible end to legal alcohol in North Carolina, which will cost the State, in taxes, about \$7,000,000. These are fine suggestions and the people, if they could vote on them, would no doubt stand firmly with Kerr Scott. But where is the \$22,800,000 — only a portion of his "go forward" program — going to be raised? Further portions of his program call for \$7,000,000 for ports improvement and \$50,000,000 for loans to counties for schoolhouses. Where in thunder is all this money coming from?

**FROM STATE INSTITUTIONS?** Including the amount which was set aside for them in 1947, the State institutions — mental asylums, the Greater University of North Carolina, colleges, etc., will have about \$76,000,000 for permanent improvements. Facilities at most of these plants are a disgrace to North Carolina. Will Gov. Scott dip into these funds? If he does not, he has only three brackets from which he can hope to raise anywhere near the revenue he will need for his "go forward" plan.

**SOURCES** — He can raise the income tax, which paid the State \$58,000,000 last year. He can go up on the sales tax, that penny-grabbing aggravation which was put on as an "emergency measure" 16 years ago and is still hanging around, bringing in \$39,000,000 during the past fiscal year. He can go back to a State tax on land. Since he was one of the leaders in the fight to get it removed, he would likely fight any attempt to resurrect it. He has recommended decreases in the sales tax. As a candidate, Scott led the people to believe he was against new taxes "with all that surplus in the banks."

**\$79,800,000** — It finally develops that Gov. Scott will need an additional \$79,800,000 in order for North Carolina to "go forward."

He requested in his inaugural address that action be taken which would reduce taxes by \$10,300,000, as he referred to above. Thus he is in the hole \$70,800,000 plus \$10,300,000 or a total of \$80,100,000.

Time marches on.  
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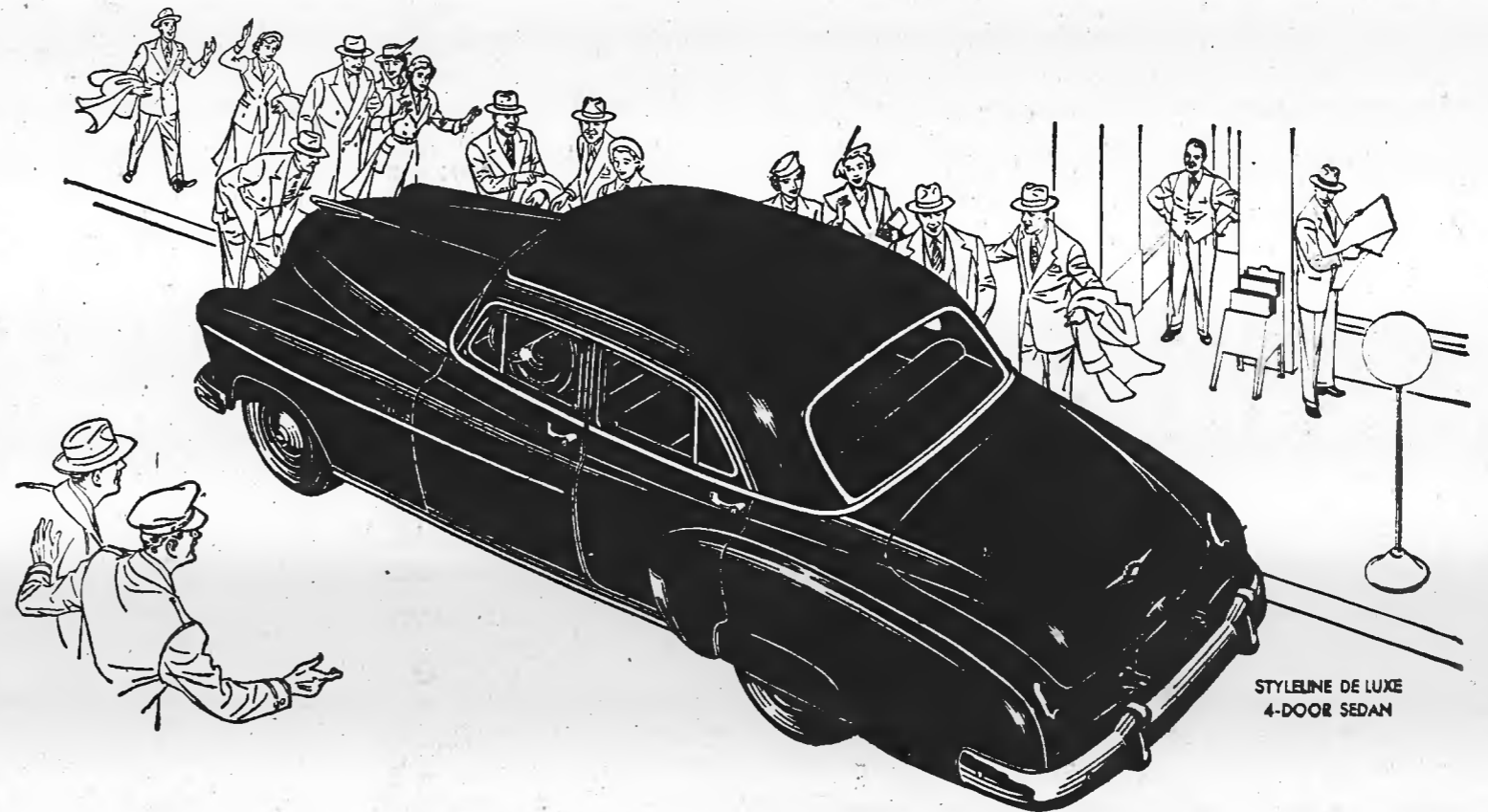
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