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PUBLISHER
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Musical Tempest

The hard of Avon, may his bones rest in peace, has run afoul of the American labor movement. New York's Local 802, American Federation of Musicians, says that his "Tempest" is a musical. The union is fair enough to admit it's not ordinary musical comedy—but it's a musical all the same, and must hire a musical's complement of union musicians.

It so happens that a revival of "The Tempest," currently running on Broadway, is a modern, streamlined version, accompanied by a musical score that runs throughout. In addition, there are four short songs—less than half a minute of them. Vera Zorina, as Ariel, and Canada Lee, as Caliban, sing these short bursts.

Now, because the union regards the play as a musical, its producers must hire sixteen musicians to sit in the pit, each on a weekly wage of \$2. If, instead, the play were classified as drama (which it's been for more than 300 years) there would have to be only twelve musicians on hand, at a difference of \$4,172 weekly, or about \$750. Well, it goes to show you can't keep a good union down, once it gets underway. There's an old, old contract between musicians and theaters that houses of 1,000 seats must employ sixteen musicians, when a musical is on the boards. And, having heard the new score for "The Tempest," and the little songs of Ariel and Caliban, the boys couldn't resist. It almost doubles the musicians' cost to the protesting management. But nothing must be allowed to stand in the way of upward progress.

Old Will himself, as he has to most topics, has already given his answer. There's one in Much Ado About Nothing.

Flat burglary as ever was committed.

Butter's Rival

Consider for a moment the once lowly oleomargarine, subject of extermination, victim of cutthroat economic competition, evidence against the efficacy of unlimited freedom of private enterprise. It is now standing before our General Assembly for consideration of its case. And this time, it has a chance to make good, to move upward in the social scale.

In North Carolina (in addition to the general Federal tax of ten cents a pound) oleo has been sold in its pristine form, no added coloring allowed. The coloring, by virtue of the dairy lobby's powerful influence, must be added by housewife hand. Thinking of the 700,000 Tar Heel wives and mothers who must mix their oleo twice a week, some legislators have proposed that the ban be lifted, and that coloring be freely added to the product.

They were snugged by the dairymen, and forced into a compromise—one which they say is satisfactory to them. They have agreed that coloring shall be added only for sale to housewives, excluding restaurants, hotels and other places where the oleo is sold. In reports behind it, it has a good chance of passage. And that's progress.

For this, you see, is warfare between two large groups of farmers. The dairymen on one hand are arrayed against the producers of cottonseed oil and peanuts—to say nothing of consumers. At present North Carolina's creamy butter production is less than a pound per capita per year. And, do not forget, creamy butter would be a pretty pale white itself but for the addition of coloring (this, however, the dairymen call keeping up to "standard"). On the other hand, oleo production in the country calls for an annual supply of 212,000,000 pounds of cottonseed oil and 112,000,000 pounds of peanuts. Oleo makes the matter very important to North Carolina farmers.

And the consumer, who thinks he has the right to buy his substitute colored

after the original, has something at stake himself.

After all, if he knows what he is buying, and if it won't hurt him, the decision should be left to him. Shouldn't it?

A Correction

Last week, commenting on a report from Raleigh, we did wrong by Mecklenburg's delegation to the General Assembly. The state's representatives had signed a resolution asking Congress to provide for a Constitutional amendment limiting Federal taxation to 25 per cent of income. And it develops, happily, that this is in error.

Our reporter had it that Representative Tonissen had gained the support of his cohorts, and dropped the resolution in the hopper. The actual state of affairs is that Mr. Tonissen has that resolution in his pocket, and the only signature on it is his own. He may not even bother to introduce it. Representative Vogler, for one, wants that made clear. He says that he won't give his support to this "millionaire's amendment," that he doubts it will be introduced—and that it will get only a handful of votes if it does reach the floor. Here's one time we're glad to have been mistaken, and eager to have the opportunity to set the record straight.

For this resolution, having passed eighteen state legislatures one year or another, threatens to place an unbearable burden upon the small taxpayer, to lighten that of the well-to-do, and increase the hazard of the already rocky fiscal road which lies ahead of the nation. Were placed to note that the Mecklenburg delegation has played no part in advancing this proposal.

Out Of Joint

Most people, spotting a news story on so dull a subject as the redistribution of solicitor districts in North Carolina, would be inclined to skip it and pass along to something entertaining. Like the editorial page. Nevertheless, a good many dull subjects are important, and this one is of great local interest, as well.

We believe it is axiomatic that the criminal courts are the bulwarks of democracy. That's where justice, the all-important guarantee, is dispensed, where wrongdoers are convicted and punished, where the innocent find a refuge. And most North Carolina criminal courts are imbued with this devotion to even-handed justice. But it is one thing to be devoted to a principle and quite another to be swamped with the duty of exercising it.

Four years ago the State became aware that its solicitor districts were lopsided. Solicitors in some districts (the solicitor is the State's prosecutor) had little to do. In others where population over the years had increased enormously, and crime with it, solicitors had too much to do. Why, in the 14th Solicitor District, comprised of Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties, criminal cases ran to about 2,000 a year. In the 1st District, the solicitor had to take only about 300 a year, yet was paid the same salary. So a commission was appointed to study the case.

That was in 1941. In 1943 the commission reported to the Legislature, but war had intervened and the summer session, which would have considered the bill, was out of date. Its existence was continued for two more years, and a week or so ago it reported again, asked for a further continuance and funds with which to collect further information. A resolution of the effect will probably receive the Legislature's approval.

By all means it should. For it is essential not only that persons accused of crime receive their rights as guaranteed by the Constitution, but that the justice system might be out of date. Its existence was continued for two more years, and a week or so ago it reported again, asked for a further continuance and funds with which to collect further information. A resolution of the effect will probably receive the Legislature's approval.

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The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

IF Miss Kelly did not ask how much he expected for \$5 a day for a room with all nursing, medicine, and doctor's services thrown in. She merely picked up the Senator's heavy bag and carried it into the elevator.

Notes: Her twenty years. Miss Kelly's father was a well-known figure in Congress, where he was author of the Air Mail Act and other important legislation. She married Senator Barker of Kentucky always carries his own bag, walks on himself as much as possible when he visits the Naval Hospital.

One of the most unusual battles in Senate history has been raging over the last big treaty negotiated by Cordell Hull—the Mexican waterway pact, dividing irrigation from the Colorado, Rio Grande, and other tributaries.

The Senate fight is unique in many respects. It is perhaps the first time in history that a State Legislature has appropriated money to contest a campaign against a Federal treaty. The California Legislature appropriated first \$50,000, later a total of \$50,000 as a lobbying fund to defeat the treaty.

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