

A Higher Pay Scale For Teachers

ACCORDING to Lynn Nisbet, our Raleigh correspondent, North Carolina officials are viewing with some alarm the teacher salary scale now being advocated by our morning contemporary. The Observer proposes a minimum annual salary of \$1,500 with graduated pay increases that might take the salary of an outstanding teacher as high as \$3,000 a year.

There are even those in Raleigh, we are told, who fear that the more moderate increases certain to be made by the next Legislature. Others take refuge in chiding The Observer for inconsistency, recalling its recent crusade for reduction of income, franchise and license tax schedules.

There are two methods of approaching this teacher's pay business, and it is understandable that State officials should ease up on it from the cautious side, trying to figure out what, if anything, can be done now and what might be done later.

The Handicap Of No Opposition

WE were taken with a headline in The Concord Tribune the other day: DEMOCRATIC LEADERS MUST BATTLE HANDICAP OF NO LOCAL OPPONENTS. It turned out to be logical and exact, for it was spread over a discussion of the local political situation by Editor W. M. Sherrill.

Well, political apathy is a fine thing to fight against, although the battle is a poor substitute for partisan competition. Indeed, since the Democrats are fighting for Douglass, the Republicans are obviously not battling to keep it in.

Mr. Petrillo Jerks His Jerks

BY all odds our favorite strike is the one in New York which resulted from the failure of night club owners to meet the latest demands of James Caesar Petrillo's musician's union. This is an ideal labor dispute in which everybody concerned—union, employer and public—gets exactly what he deserves.

The musician's strike, indeed, even has the seal of Westbrook Pegler's approval, the serene-tempered Mr. Pegler having decided that Mr. Petrillo has served the public by testing his jerks and allowing diners to consume their victuals in peace.

Another Voice

Toward A Two-Party System

THE views of Virginia Dabney, editor of The Richmond Times-Dispatch, on the need for and soundness of a two-party system in the South coincide substantially with those of The Daily News in its long-time advocacy of such a course.

sonnel to the teaching profession. The salary schedule proposed by The Observer is set all out, of line with the prevailing pay scale in comparable professions, or even in the unskilled trades. It is, in fact, a measure of the present scale's inadequacy that the general fund budget should have to be doubled to bring the minimum pay for teachers up to the present earnings of skilled cotton mill workers.

It may be that it is not feasible to bring the pay scale all the way up to the level proposed by The Observer in one fell swoop, but we don't think the proposal can be dismissed as "desirable as an ultimate goal, given top priority in all budgetary deliberations in Raleigh. Positive action to check the disintegration of public school teaching staffs cannot be postponed any longer.

From a purely political standpoint, it is significant that The Observer has taken up this crusade. Our contemporary is by all odds the most conservative journal in North Carolina, a long-time advocate of governmental economy at every level.

People's Platform Great To Be A Tar Heel

Editors, The News: BEING an ex-Georgian and therefore keeping in touch with the old home town of Atlanta via its papers, I obtained the enclosed article from the Atlanta Constitution. I was so much impressed with the truth of its statements that I thought you too would be interested in seeing how our state of North Carolina looks through Atlanta eyes.

While living in Georgia, one of our motels was "it's great to be a Georgian." But since living in my adopted state of North Carolina for nine years I now say, "It's greater to be a Tar Heel."

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FRANKS PERKINS

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WASHINGTON THE CONTROVERSY over the Truman-Wallace dispute has been blown up over the speech on foreign policy made by Secretary of Commerce Henry A. Wallace during his recent visit to the White House.

Not until Acting Secretary of State William L. Clayton called the White House and talked to one of the President's aides was there a realization of the damage that had been done. No one in the White House, aside from the President, had any knowledge of the import of the Wallace speech.

Clayton did not call his deep concern over what it would mean to Secretary Byrnes in the midst of the feast of the White House. This was at 6 o'clock on the day the speech was to be delivered. Mr. Wallace's speech was in New York, the meeting would begin in an hour and a half.

Nevertheless there was hurried discussion as to whether an effort should be made to reach Wallace on the phone and persuade him to develop a statement of indignation. Anything to prevent his making the speech.

DIE CAST The next morning—Friday—the White House was not long in its response. The rumor and counter-rumor that Wallace had been killed at the White House, the repercussions would be as bad, or even worse, than if it were developed that Wallace had been cast and Wallace stood up before the party cheering, partly hissing audience to make his all-important speech.

THOUGHT TALK POLITICAL At least three times while Wallace was with the President, they were interrupted. When Wallace left, the chief impression Truman had was that the speech was positive and well-aimed. It was an endorsement of the Democratic candidates, Mead and Lehman, before a rally which would provide a sympathetic background.

In response to the first question of the House, the President said, in conference, the President said that while wisdom that certainly he would not comment on an address that had not yet been delivered. Then, however, he permitted himself to be led on by other questions.

NEW YORK HENRY WALLACE'S speech and its reactions to it constitute a postwar comedy of manners. For the first time since the war, Wallace has stumbled on something that sounds like the words of a statesman. He said he would have let his tongue be cut off rather than have it say that he had not been listening.

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ATLANTA YOUR recent editorial concerning my article in the current ATLANTIC MONTHLY has come to my attention. I want to express my appreciation to you for your comment. I hope you will have an opportunity to read the Atlantic Monthly which will be published November 6th by Lippincott.

GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be sent to the publisher, if possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscenity will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed and the writer's name and address given. We will withhold the writer's name.

WASHINGTON "As Secretary of Commerce I talk to a good many businessmen, and I find them very much concerned over the size of the Federal budget and the burden of the national debt. We Fumble In Dark Of course, dollars and cents are not the most important reason why we do not wish to go through another war—and especially an atomic war which will undoubtedly be the most costly and deadly in history.

NO LASTING SECURITY IN ARMS SOME of the military men and self-styled 'realists' are saying: "What's wrong with trying to build up a preponderance of our own forces for this country? It is the only way to be so well armed that no one will dare attack us. We know that America will never start a war."

A Preventive War "THERE is a school of military thinking which recognizes that the only way to prevent a world war is to have a preventive war, a war which will destroy modern civilization and result in a new world order. This school of thought is not only immoral but stupid. If we should attempt to destroy all the principal Russian cities and her heavy industry, we might well succeed. But the immediate result would be a world war which would destroy the cities of Europe and the United States. The only way to prevent a world war is to have a preventive war, a war which will destroy modern civilization and result in a new world order.