

Open Shop And Closed Record

IT SEEMS to us unfortunate, but although fitting that the anti-closed shop bill passed the House of Representatives without a record vote, that faint-hearted action, designed expressly to prevent the taxing of responsibility for the passage of a highly controversial piece of legislation, was in keeping with the irrelevant and evasive debate that preceded it.

Our criticism of the Legislature's action has nothing to do with the merits or demerits of the closed shop, but with the methods used to obtain the passage of this bill. Both opponents and proponents, it seems to us, are guilty of bad judgment. If not bad faith. Not a single member of the House arose to demand a roll-call vote (a fifth of the members present could have done such a thing) even though a grand mandating vote (which must be granted on the motion of a single member) was requested.

The Raleigh News & Observer believes this singular passiveness on the part of Representatives is representative of a fact agreement to avoid an embarrassing record vote since passage seemed assured anyway. This, as we say, was entirely appropriate. Ever since the measure was first introduced there has been a studied effort to avoid a public record on the question before the Legislature — the need for such legislation in North Carolina. Proponents of the measure based their arguments on high and lofty ideals, the preservation of the laborer's right to work. But they did not cite examples to show how that right has been abridged in this state? If they did not, how did they want the reports we make on the subject to be? The member of Buncombe is arguing along this line: "John L. Lewis is public enemy number one. He was during the war and he is today. When a man can turn his country into a public enemy, he is a menace to the industry from operating, and deny a man the right to work, that's dictatorship." Granting that Mr. Fisher's indictment is valid, what has it got to do with passage of a closed shop bill in North Carolina? The member of Buncombe is arguing along this line: "John Lewis is public enemy number one. He was during the war and he is today. When a man can turn his country into a public enemy, he is a menace to the industry from operating, and deny a man the right to work, that's dictatorship." Granting that Mr. Fisher's indictment is valid, what has it got to do with passage of a closed shop bill in North Carolina?

have been denied the closed shop in a state that has no coal mines.

If the labor union in North Carolina has the dictatorial power to turn this nation into a shivering shambles, we would think that every member of the House of Representatives would be proud to have his name recorded as voting to bring them to heel. The fact that the gentlemen didn't raise a hand to live includes the right to work. The fact that they themselves have grave doubts concerning the propriety of the measure they seek to enact into law.

In edging away from the bill as though it might explode in their faces, and debating it in terms of conditions prevailing in West Virginia, the gentlemen of the House of Representatives may very well have overlooked the heavy charge of dynamite it does contain. Consider the preamble, which would be adopted as State policy: "The right to live includes the right to work. The exercise of the right to work must be protected and maintained free from undue restraints and coercion..."

This has a fine Declaration of Independence ring and it is a real reason why any man who wants a job can have one. It obviously applies primarily to the restrictive activities of the labor unions. But suppose there comes a day, as once there did, when some hungry, desperate North Carolinians are ready, willing, and able to work and private enterprise cannot supply sufficient jobs. What then of the right to work solemnly guaranteed by the State of North Carolina? Unemployment still has in this time of plenty an employer decides for reasons of his own to fire a man who is capable and willing to perform the duties required. A lawyer, it seems to us, might make out an impressive case that the employer is abridging his right to work in defiance of the Legislature.

There are two sides to the closed shop question, but so far we haven't even heard of them. Instead a law that appears to support its objective was shoveled through the House in a sort of emotional stampede. This, as we hope the Senate will recognize when it begins its deliberations, is no way to guarantee sound and stable labor relations in North Carolina.

The Need For State Milk Laws

THE machinery for inspecting and guaranteeing standards of milk in North Carolina is cumbersome, with authority divided among two State Departments and various local Boards of Health. However, creaking though it may be, it still works when competent and determined public health officials put a shoulder to it.

The Grand Jury presentation of charges involving 18 milk dealers in the Charlotte area provides a case history. The Department of Agriculture, charged with inspection to prevent adulteration, made tests of local milk samples back in November. The State Department of Health operated, as did the Charlotte Health Department, which has authority to grade milk. Based on evidence obtained from analysis of the samples, the Agriculture Department held hearings, and later issued public statements (without naming the milk dealers concerned) announcing that adulterated milk had been sold in the Charlotte area and warning the dealers to cease and desist. Apparently distressed by this public statement, the Agriculture Health Officer, went to Judge Zeb V. Nesfield, presiding in Superior Court here, and placed the same evidence before him. Judge Nesfield ordered a Grand Jury investigation. The Grand Jury, after a trial, advised the Solicitor will now prepare indictments for the next term of criminal court.

None of this, of course, proves the guilt of the dairymen named in the presentment. The Grand Jury did find evidence sufficient to warrant a trial—against every citizen of the county should be grateful for its prompt and courageous action. If we are, as the official tests indicated, paying 20 cents a quart for milk that may be one-third water we should certainly know who is selling it to us.

Reputable dairymen, we suspect, will be glad to trial. For, so long as the charge is general suspicion attaches to the innocent as well as the guilty, even the publicity attendant to the trial, unpleasant though it may be, will do no lasting harm to those whose names have been defrauding the public.

This case, we think, demonstrates two things: (1) that the present inspection system can be made to work, but (2) it is entirely too cumbersome and complicated. The very fact that a case involving so many dealers ever reached court is at least presumptive evidence that past inspections have been too lax and infrequent to serve, in themselves, as a safeguard against adulteration. Criminal action, after all, is a last resort and one that any health official would be reluctant to undertake if he could accomplish the same ends without it. The circumstances also indicate, we think, that less populous communities than Charlotte, Mecklenburg and Charlotte especially, are health departments, probably are not receiving adequate protection.

The Grand Jury recommended that legislation be passed to strengthen the present State inspection system, and Judge Nesfield concurred, ordering a copy of the presentment and a copy of the report of the Mecklenburg Legislative Delegation. Even though the situation appears to be in hand in Charlotte, we hope our Representatives will see to it that this action indicates the need for prompt action by the Legislature as a whole.

Repe. Morris & Sims, you state that the money received by ABC stores would be divided between Parks and Recreation Commission, Library Boards and 25 per cent for reduction of City debts. Well, Rep. Morris, what about the poor cray men and women that make this money available to you to show you are worthy of the Army and Navy? You first think of mental collapse. When they were first being talked up, it was stated that a per cent of money from sales would be used for establishments of Illinois.

"The dwellers on the Mountain of Arrogance grow sensitive, it is well." And Tuck, who was called Governor, raged in his tent and had only this to comfort him: Jonathan, son of Josephus, had not said: Thank God for Virginia.

When the late Volstead was asked if he ever sampled prohibition gin, he ignored the question. It is pretty well known, though, that Andy was a noble experimenter. Contributors to five national magazines have lately written the fair sex off as a loss. They divide it roughly into three classes: The beautiful, the intelligent and the many.

Adios, Muchachos



People's Platform A Beautiful Idea

CHARLOTTE EDITORS: THE NEWS: THANKS to Harry Golden for bringing to our city the greatest Dixionian of our time. And that's a great man, son.

Brotherhood Week—a beautiful idea in an unbelieved, strife-torn world of reality. Our task can be to heal slightly the hurt by crying "Brotherhood, Brotherhood," though there be no brotherhood. May the idea persist in the hearts of a few men until it can be made a reality.

I should like to suggest here, to the sponsors of Brotherhood Week, that it is a necessary step to the abolition of war; that is, to a permanent organization, representing all nations, to meet annually for the purpose of determining the causes of war to the end that they might be removed.

Sick, Not Criminal EDITORS: THE NEWS: I HAVE sent the following letter to Reps. Sims and Morris.

REPUBLICAN leaders held two closed-door meetings on the budget last week which were as different as day and night. One was a meeting of the House of Representatives on record against any sharp budget cuts for the Army and Navy.

Senator Arthur Vandenberg, ever the diplomat, took a different tack. He began by complimenting the Budget Committee on its job, and commending its courage. He concluded, it has recommended too deep a cut.

Harold Ickes Fly In N. Ointment

CHARLOTTE EDITORS: THE NEWS: THERE seems to be a fly in the ointment. It is applied to the proposed United States site abutting the East River.

Congratulations MT AIRY WE want to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the success of the Charlotte office of the American Cancer Society.

Breakdown of Contemplated Cuts IN the end the holdouts for the six-billion-dollar cut must have been the Army and Navy.

Capital Chaff A WASHINGTON woman with a sense of humor sent all the White House squires. As long as the White House is supplied by Missourians, she said, the squires should dine on Missouri.

Marquis Childs Universal Training

WASHINGTON WHEN an American of the stature of Secretary of State George C. Marshall makes a statement, it is a good idea for the rest of us to pay attention.

TO RENEW APPEAL President Truman named a committee of civilians to study the question, and he said the other day that he intended to renew his appeal for training.

THE country that has enjoyed the greatest peace in our troubled world is Sweden.

Harold Ickes Fly In N. Ointment (continued) THE architects for the project have been chosen. They believe that there should have been a world-wide competition to select the architect.

have moved steadily toward greater democracy, both in their economic and their political life.

LATER THREAT There was, however, a later invasion threat. That was in February when the divers got the word of it in Berlin. They mobilized 400,000 trained men for active duty.

PROGRESSIVE TRAINING Training and preparedness do not mean a militaristic state.

Harold Ickes Fly In N. Ointment (continued) THE architects for the project have been chosen. They believe that there should have been a world-wide competition to select the architect.