Limitation That Doesn't Limit

THERE is a constitutional limitation on the taxes that may be levied by the counties of North Carolina for general pur-

counties of North Carolina tor general purposes. The limit—15 cents on a hundred dollars evaluation—was adequate when it was fixed years ago, but it sint any longer. The result is that most of the larger counties of North Carolina have established a whole variety of special functions and obtained statutory authority to levy special taxes to support them. Mecklenburg is engaged in that process again at the moment. Mounting expenses of the rural police department have placed a heavy strain on the county's general fund, which depends largely upon the income from the tax authorized by the Constitution. The County Delegation has therefore introduced a bill in the Legislature providing a special 10 cent level oil. In one change the County Delegation has therefore introduced a bill in the Legislature providing a special 10 cent level oil. In one change the County Delegation has therefore the County Delegation has the County Delegation of the County Delegation has the County Delegation of the County Delega

simple, and has become such a standard practice, that the constitutional limitation itself is virtually meaningless.

This is not to question the need for an increased appropriation for the County Police Department. It is an excellent and efficient organization, and like every other county department it has been caught by the pinch of rising costs. Nor is it to question the financial acumen of the campa. Soots who are the Mecklenburg Commissioners. When these gentlemen say an additional tax levy is essential it usually is.

But this simple little gambit stands as further evidence of the need for a re-examination of the relationship be two endicates and ministipal government. Most examination of the relationship be two endicates and ministipal government. Most revent excessive spending, yet it seems that these restrictions can always be evaded, one way or the other, when the need is great enough. The answer, we think, is amendment of the Constitution to provide evasion-proof limits on local spending, but limits that are flexible enough to allow the municipallities to meet the legitimate demands made upon them.

The Theory Of Group Libel

The Theory Of Group

Some weeks ago the Saturday Review of Schieffeture suggested Federal legislation to extend the protection of libel laws to minority groups. In an eloquent editorial, SRL argued that the greatest threat to a stable society lies in racial defamation; if an individual is emitted to protection against the publication of malicious untruths, why not a racial or religious group?

SRL received more than 200 letters in reply to its editorial. They came from the rank and file of its readership, and also from some of the leading public figures of the day. This week the magazine published come of the leading public figures of the day. This week the magazine published come of the leading public figures of the day. This week the magazine published come of the leading public figures of the SR state of the second of the secon

would be no less dangerous for having been established in a worthy cause. Representative Andrews saw the proposal as a violation of our traditional concept of individual liberty. The Constitution, he pointed out, does not guarantee special protection to minority groups: instead, it refuses to recognize the existence of minority groups for hold this minority groups for hold the property of the property of the property of the register of the rights of the individual and. Mr. Andrews insists, the citizen cannot be given

special dispensation as a member of a sproup without loss of some of his rights as an individual. The most interesting comment came from Judge Hand, the great justice of the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals. The Judge offered an impressive list of practical objections. How, he asked, could you bring a civil action under a group libel law? Each member of a saked, could you bring a civil action under a group liber law? Each member of an damage guilfered as a result of the libel, obviously an encliess and futile process. The assessment of punitive damages, arbitrarily fixed by the court, is a veryebad judicial practice, Judge Hand belleves. This leaves only criminal prosecution for the perpetrators of group libel. And Judge Hand points out the impossibility of presenting adequate evidence in such a case. The prosecutor would have to go back into the mists of history to prove that the usual racial proposed to the such as acting the courts find twelve were, where would the courts find twelve gurymen capable of weighing such evidence?

But Judge Hand also objected to the

dence?

But Judge Hand also objected to the theory of group libel. Free speech, he said, means free speech, and any limitation represents an abridgement of our traditional belief that free men engaged in free discussion will eventually winnow truth from error. The only answer to intolerance is tolfor the suppression of ideas, good or bad, only gifes them added vitality. The problem is educational, Judge Hand insists,

problem is educational, Judge Hand Insists, not legal.

The rebuttal to SRL's editorial, eloquent as it was and coming from the sources it did, will probably bury the theory of group libel. In this time of mounting hysteria this little intellectual discussion conducted in a rarefield literary atmosphere has a special importance. It demonstrates that a few of our leaders, at least, still cling stubbornly to their faith in the ancient American institutions now under attack from both the right and left.

The Legislature's Housing Shortage

I IKE many a private citizen, the North Carolina Legislature faces an acute housing shortage. It has a place to live, it is true, but its present quarters are far from adequate. The gentlemen are all but

from adequate. The gentlemen are all but sitting in each other's laps in the House and Senate Chambers, the various committees trajpes around Capitol Square looking for a place to hold a hearing, debate over controversial legislation g us rs not es an overflow of the spectators galleres.

A Special Commission of the Legislature has been working on the problem for some time. The eastest and quickest solution, it found, and sorreported to the Goverhor, is to build two new wines on the present Capitol. But this suggestion was greeded by a storm of protest from the state historical societies. It would be, they argued, a deservation to alter the lines of the 107-year-old structure that has seen so much North Carolina history paraded through its handsome halls.

ed with adequate space for the Legislature, the executive departments, and the visitors who like to see democracy at work. Nobody, so far as we know, has brought forward any major objection to this plan. Nevertheless, it is generally regarded as a dead pipeon in Raleigh. Representative U. B. Blaicok of Anson, chairman of the Commission, has found a complete lack of enthusiasm among his fellow Legislators, and is reported ready to throw in the towel, for this session at least.

tinuasan among in sellow Degisators, and is reported rady to throw in the towel, for this session at least as, well. The Legislature is dealing with some fancy ficures in its appropriations bill already, and even so many a petitioner is far from satisfied. It might have been bad grace for the Legislators to have taken care of their needs in this season of high income and even higher demands for expenditures.

We hope, however, that the Commission's report will not wind up in a completely inaccessible pigeoinhole. A lot of hard and conscientious work has gone into it, and some day, somehow, the Legislature is going to have to find adequate quarters for the board of directors of the SS0000000 business the operation of the State of North Carolina has become.

Another Voice

Something New Has Been Added

NEWS that the Junior Chamber of Commerce in Asheville has decided to
sponsor an ABC store election in Buncombe
County injects a new note into Stritton.
County injects a new note in the stritton.
Liquor elections, up to now, have not
been sponsored by established groups;
they have had to depend upon special
organizations formed in revolt against
existing conditions.
Ordinarily an established groups are

Ordinarily an established group such as

Ordinarily an established group-such as a Junior Chamber of Commerce has its own little red wagon to pull, its own projects to sponsor, and its own responsibilities to meet. It is almost inevitable that a standard organization be more satisfied than not satisfied with things as they are. Even a Junior Chamber of Commerce, with its ideals of progressive action, usually tends to become self-satisfied with routine procedure and stereotyped objectives.

What there is different about this Asheville group we do not know, but obviously

there is something different.

It will be most interesting to note what reaction comes in the Asheville region from introduction of such a novelty.

introduction of such a novelty.

We hope that the Asheville movement has some co-ordinated intention of carrying through with constructive law enforcement efforts in the event it is successful in awapping state control for the prohibitionist system of dealing with the liquior problem.

It is time the nation is rebelling against the "west" who are satisfied with an open liquor traffic inadequately controlled, and the "drys" smug and sitent in the midst of the social destruction and spiritual damnation which run rick under the hypocritical varnish of prohibition. —Salisbury Post.

'I'm Here To Stay, Too'



Songs And Memories

The Good Old Days

Oh, goin' down the road a-feelin' bad. An I ain' go be treated this way.

They were singing other songs, too, some of them sentimental songs like Till be serin' you in all the sentimental songs like Till be serin' you in all the latered to was the one about going down the road seeiing bad, with all its verse, sight as "Going where the water tastes like wil-line, oh, I'm going where the water tastes like wil-line, oh, I'm going where the water tastes like wil-line, oh, I'm going where the water tastes like wil-line, oh, I'm going where the water tastes like wil-line, oh, I'm going where the water tastes like wil-line, oh, I'm going where the water tastes like wil-line, oh, I'm going where the like will be will

shead of the story.

LOKING back, you remember it as a time when there was no money, when nobody had any money, much except a few of the very rich, And there were chosen to be a few of the very rich, and there were chosen which in one year one could earn enough to spend the next at college or support a family on. But there were loss, all right. There were dish-weaking jobs and window washing jobs and magazine salesmen. The wrest were full of magazine salesmen. It was the era- of the college box working his way through college. It we seem men do magazines alsesmen. The streets were full of magazine salesmen. The was the era- of the college box working his way through college. It we seem men do magazines. The first job! got on the road was h job selling magazines. I looked in the paper at the help wanted ads. And nobody wanted any help, except a And I didn't want a dish-washing job, even though I was broke, and had no where to stay. I washed these later on all right, but I was new on the road them, and choosy.

So I figure that was a single. I know that every-

dshes later on all right, but I was new on the road then, and choose.

So I floured out an angle. I knew that everysolven and the state of the sta

And in that respect, I think it was a better time than this.—HAROLD MARTIN in The Atlanta

The Feople's Platform is available to any reader who cores to mount it. Communications reader who cores to mount it. Communications possible, and so only one side type of the possible, and so only one side type of the common control with the control

Rabies

Senator Soaper Says:

A DARING editor of a national periodical plans to get out one issue carrying no article by or about railroader Robert R. Young, to see how the reader will react.

Marquis Childs

Greece And U. N. Aid

IT 15 NOT surprising that some of the less responsible members of the less responsible members of Congress should have reacted to President Truman's proposal for Greece and Turkey with a slight touch of hysteria. Nevertheless, are not helpful in the present moment of tension. Fortunately there has took because the present moment of tension.

moment of tension. Fortunately there has just been released the report of a special united Nations mission to Greece which shows how intervention can mean peace and prosperity and not more strife leading to war. It is the report of a group of experts, most of them Americans, sent to Oreece by the U.N. Food and Agriculture

when it limits more get a large share of the blame.

OTHER WAY PLAN the way of peace and the way of th

most of the countryside.

MEPOPRA TAVARIANCE

In the conclusion the report recommends that these steps be carticology and the control of the

Samuel Grafton

Freedom Or Reaction?

Drew Pearson's: Vandenberg Gives GOP Facts On Greece Merry-Go-Round:

CORTY-POUR of the SI Republican Senators attended the very off-the-record session of the Republican conterners, to the service of the service service of the service of the

answered during our hearings. It is information which the Senate should have: conference, only two Senators— During the difference only two Senators— Wayne Morse of the Conference only two Senators— Wayne Morse of the Conference on the Conference of the Conference of the Conference of the Conference on the Conference on the Conference of the Conferenc

MUCH of equestioning was aimed at finding out from MUCH of the questioning was aimed at finding out from the proposed in the year East with Administration policy else-where in the world. Why, asked several Senators, should we be trying to block Communium in the Near East when we have. In effect, the companies of the Senators of the other communities of the communities of

vital Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, volced the thoughts of some colleagues such the symmetric that the control of the three feels agreat fear for the future. If we agree to provide these moneys, it seems to me well have to decide to go all the way. The only futurer step is war, the control of the control of

or these areas—yet we are not tool about it until early March." Indexinand. That added, "that Foreign Minister Bevin told Secretary Byrnes last October this would happen, yet we were not told a word of it." The property of the property of

Tax Car Knutson

PRUSSIAN-HIKE Chairman Harold Knutson has long riled

was and Menthe Chairman Harold Knutson has long riled

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As Knutson started to turn the pages, Democrat Walter Lynch of New York asked: "May the rest of us have copies of the record, Mr. Chairman?" have just this one copy," replied Knutson, obviously

"I have just this one copy, annoyed,
annoyed,
"Can't the rest of us get copies?" Lynch persisted.
"All I have is just this one printers copy." Knutson
recented.

"But I suppose the Speaker has one, too—or does he share yours?" returned Lynch sarcastically.

share yours? returned jords areasted. The condition areasted by the state yours? returned jords areasted by the group of the group. The state yours? The state of the group of

Senator McKellar's Car

REPUBLICAN Senate Leaders Vandenberg and Taft en de from the White House the other day after a ference with President Truman. As they walked the the corridors, Vandenberg asked Taft whether the Ohio ator had transportation back to the Hill. Taft replied