

THOMAS L. ROBINSON J. E. DOWD HARRY S. ASEMORSE
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To Eat It Or To Have It?

EVIDENCE of our national schizophrenia is piling up. There is the Congress trying to reduce Federal income by some \$1 billion dollars a year at a moment when the State Department is about to bring forth a plan for financing world reconstruction to the tune of six billion dollars a year. And there, like an unwelcome shadow from the Copliage era, is the wool bill.

This week by a vote of 191 to 166 the House of Representatives passed a bill permitting an increase in existing tariffs sufficient to reduce this country's total wool imports by as much as 50 per cent.

It did this even though the wool producing industry in the United States is quite small and has never been able to supply domestic demands. It did this in the face of a categorical warning from the State Department that the success of the international trade conference in Geneva depends upon defeating the bill.

The wool bill has a peculiar and distracting importance as a symbol. To the extent it means that we are accepting once again the theory of tariff protection to guarantee American farmers and industrialists against foreign competition. And

the world understands, from bitter experience, that it is impossible to divorce the wool industry from the isolationist doctrine of which it is the cornerstone. So conservative a Congressman as Sam Rayburn of Texas tried to point this out to his colleagues, arguing that cannot build up military and economic alliances around the globe to contain Soviet Russia and at the same time build a tariff wall around our own country. If our allies are ever to repay us they must trade with us, otherwise we are equal to as part of our anti-Communist barricade only by maintaining them as pensioners.

Yet the wool bill passed, and it can only be regarded as further evidence that Congress and, for that matter, the people themselves — still refuse to look at the picture of our international relations as a whole. We seem to recognize the danger of Russian aggression, indeed, to be frightened out of our wits by it, but we are not yet willing to make any sacrifice to meet it. That is an unreal and highly dangerous state of mind. We cannot see how any administration could be more competent and inspired than Harry Truman's, can hope to be a coherent foreign policy upon it.



Editorial Roundup Mecklenburg And ABC-II

THE fact that the advocates of the ABC stores in Mecklenburg County went their flight by a wide margin is no occasion for hilarity or dependency on either side.

In spite of the number of bootleggers recently caught in Durham County, in spite of the amount of liquor sold in Durham's ABC stores (checks to customers from every other county was of Durham), Durham is much better off with the ABC stores than it ever was without them. And that makes no allowance for the economic factor of retail revenue from the stores. There is a more orderly handling of the liquor problem with the State-controlled system. This is a fact that no one can deny.

Hating liquor and wanting to get rid of it completely is one thing; believing that legislation against the manufacture and sale of liquor will do that, another.

The realist is the man who faces facts and realizes that most of the liquor sold is bought by the "best people" of the town who insist on their right to drink.

The realist, still a dry and hating liquor, admits that the solution is a control, not prohibition.—DURHAM HERALD.

county authorities undoubtedly will appoint men of the highest character whose sole purpose will be to render conscientious public service.

Now that Mecklenburg has decided to take the control of liquor out of the corruption and crime-breeding hands of the bootleggers, the Record believes it is more certain than ever before that Hickory voters will do the same thing when they have the opportunity to record their convictions at the polls.—THE HICKORY RECORD.

Seductive

MECKLENBURG County has voted to try the seductive experiment of a liquor stores system for control of the liquor business. Arguments for and against are swirling at this stage of the experiment. The State will simply have to stand by and await developments.

Legislating the sale of liquor, drinking it much more to obtain than under the bootlegging system, and removing the stigma of violation, is certain to be a success. Many of these new voters in Charlotte have moved into the city in recent years, bringing more liberal ideas and notions with them from Northern and Western states.

They have changed the status of Charlotte from acety of native-born Southerners. Many of these new voters are from the North, the West, and the Midwest. They are bringing with them a more liberal and progressive attitude toward liquor.—GASTON GAZETTE.

Avalanche

WHETHER it works in Mecklenburg will depend not upon the liquor stores but upon the people. If they can get more law enforcement, they demand it, but they'll have liquor stores and bootleggers, too.

What happened in Mecklenburg Saturday and in Franklin earlier in the week strengthens the position of those who have contended all along that the cities are wet and the rural sections are dry.

And again we say, these results will bring an avalanche of votes to the next General Assembly seeking city-wide votes on establishment of the stores.—CONCORD TRIBUNE.

Temperance

CHARLOTTE, the majority of whose voters failed to heed the argument that "Alcohol Brutalizes Consumers," will probably become neither wetter nor drier. The county and the municipalities are one with money in his pocket has perished for the lack of a drink in his stomach.

Obviously, Jim couldn't maintain two establishments in New York and Washington on a Cabinet officer's meagre salary, and the more he went into debt, the more he was in a hurry to get out of New York. He had the same idea that Jim had had Roosevelt, that if it hadn't been for Jim there wouldn't be any Roosevelt, and that it was time Jim got away and let Roosevelt rule.

So, afterwards, Jim Farley really got to believe that all this was true. That was one of the most important factors in the break between the two once great friends.

On Economics And Education

IN A RECENT speech before the North Carolina Conference for Social Service at Asheville, S. H. Hobbs Jr., editor of The University of North Carolina News Letter, undertook an analysis of the current economic situation.

For instance: Between 1940 and 1946 cash farm income rose from \$201,000,000 to approximately \$300,000,000.

In 1949 industrial output in North Carolina valued at \$1,611,000,000. The estimated value of factory goods produced in 1946 was \$2,300,000,000.

Income payment to individuals totalled \$1,859,000,000 in 1942. The Department of Commerce estimates for 1946 is \$2,800,000,000.

Average family income in North Carolina, from \$1,388 in 1940 to \$2,912. (The per family income range is from Mecklenburg's \$3,245 to Henderson's \$809.)

Total bank deposits increased from slightly more than \$500,000,000 in 1930 to more than two billion dollars in 1946. For the first time in history, Mr. Hobbs noted, North Carolina has more money than it needs to serve the financial needs of the state without outside assistance.

All of this is on the credit side of the ledger. But Mr. Hobbs also found a good deal of trouble on the debit side. He pointed out that for one thing more than half of North Carolina's record-breaking farm income in 1946 came from tobacco, a notoriously unstable crop and one already gravely threatened by British import duties. He also noted that, despite her impressive industrial income, "it can be said, with only slight reservation, that North Carolina does not have a high wage industry within the state."

Dr. I. Q. Finds An Answer

FOR almost a decade Americans have been staggering out of theaters across the land burdened down with silver dollars and boxes of candy bars across the country. Their intelligence and erudition. Their benefactor is Radio's ubiquitous Dr. I. Q., one of the original quizmasters and still one of the most successful.

We never knew until the other day that there had ever been more than one Dr. I. Q. It appears, however, that the voice has changed several times in the long history of the program, and the original has now turned up in the news under most remarkable circumstances.

It is James Wesley McClain, who took over the program in 1941 and spread a trail of silver dollars and candy bars across the nation. During the next five and one-half years he managed to earn some 500,000 dollars (not necessarily silver) for himself. Then Mr. McClain was converted to the plebeian faith in 1946 by turning his back squarely on the microphone and was ordained to the deaconate at Louisville. Last week he was one of 19 students who received diplomas from Seabury-Western

Moreover, Mr. Hobbs found that North Carolina can claim great economic progress only when she measures her recent gains against what she had before the war, wartime boom began. When a comparison is made with national averages, she finds, herself still down in the lower brackets on every economic count. Her average per capita income has increased enormously, but it is still only 81 per cent of the national average.

We will never have well-being on a par with the nation until we have income on a par with the nation. Unless a day's work in North Carolina will equal the equal standard of living will be below par because we all buy in the same market. Some of the nation's population is living in the South one can live more cheaply. One can and does, but he does not live as well. We simply have settled for a lower standard of living. The economic well-being of North Carolina will be achieved only when we move out of the 60 to 70 per cent income level and into at least an 80 per cent income level.

Does Mr. Hobbs have a solution to this ancient problem? He does, and it is as familiar as his dismal conclusion and no less valid. The correlation between income level and educational level is exact; the more the individual's income level, the higher the rank in income level. The national population is living better than we do. We will achieve par in well-being only when we have par in education.

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How does he feel about it? "All right, so I'm broke. I don't feel that I threw my money away. Part of it paid for my theological training. I have a lot of expensive movie equipment which is my hobby. And I have a library worth \$10,000, including many volumes on theology. I want to devote the rest of my life to small-town missions. I have no ambition to be elevated to a higher station in the church. I'm as high now as I'll ever be—and I'm satisfied."

The moral to the Rev. Mr. McClain's story is as obvious as any question he ever directed to a giggling lady in the balcony. Earning money, or even giving it away, does not necessarily guarantee satisfaction. He found the answer to his own doubts and fears where every man must look — in his own heart.

Another Voice

Triumph Of American Culture

A REPORT from a New York City correspondent reveals that in every respect that, in every walk of life, it's the little things that count. Our correspondent was letting his eyes glide along the bus advertisements the other day when his gaze landed into something that stopped him short.

"There, among the plebeian assortment of movie stars and ladies in lingerie, was a picture of Lady Iris Mountbatten, daughter of the Viceroy of India. Meeting Lady Iris this morning at a Manhattan bus stop — in an advertisement, at any rate — was somewhat startling even in these demerol days. But what came next convinced me that America's gun culture has conquered all."

"I prefer the New Mint Cocktail Gun." Lady Iris was telling the world. "This stimulating blend of mint flavors is the

height of good taste." We wonder what effect this endorsement is going to have in the minority of households where mothers and fathers are still a bit sticky about gun chewing. When chided for chewing, will Wilburforce reply in piping and impeccable English that Lady Iris has decreed that "this stimulating blend of mint flavors is the height of good taste?"

An imagined but entirely possible scene comes to mind. It is Buckingham Palace. A gracious garden party is in progress. Lady Iris Mountbatten, carrying an orange parasol and wearing a picture hat, stands in a tiled friend to another and says: "You've got a delicious stick of New Mint Cocktail Gun? It's the height of good taste."

Any gun, huh? — Christian Science Monitor.

Lost Customer

South Carolina lost a big liquor customer when North Carolina's Mecklenburg County—dry, (legally, that is) since 1908 decided Saturday to establish a state liquor store.

For years certain South Carolina retail dealers in border counties have done business far out of proportion to the potential customers in their communities. And it took no smart person to see that out-of-state bootlegging was responsible for the swelled sales. On each bottle of spirits there is a South Carolina tax, and so the more sold, the more the tax.

The 400 men and women who led the movement to establish the stores said it was not a moral question, but simply whether there was to be legal or illegal liquor. But regardless of why the majority voted wet, the fact is the ABC stores were favored and when they are established the unhealthy traffic over the North Carolina-South Carolina border will be reduced or ended. And the revenue to South Carolina from taxes on these state sales will not be mourned.—THE COLUMBIA STATE.

Evil Stuff

THE wet, of course, will not be able to make good on all of their promises. Bootlegging will continue to a limited extent, although ABC stores will in the large measure do away with the bootlegging. It will not decrease, and young people who want liquor will not be able to get it, same as heretofore. But the bootlegging profits will be reduced, thus enriching the lawless element and fostering gangsterism, the lawless element and fostering gangsterism, the lawless element and fostering gangsterism.

We hold no brief for the liquor traffic, whether it be an unmitigated evil and it could be made profitable for the public good. But the ABC stores will be a better one. But since prohibition apparently can't be enforced, perhaps the citizens of Charlotte, Mecklenburg's dry, rural population in Saturday's election, acted wisely. They took the realistic view that as long as the vote split is being sold anyway, the county and the municipalities may as well keep the profits. We join the Allied Church in its advice, the Allied Church League statement, we will now join the county's moderate effort to eliminate bootlegging and keep liquor away from young people who are wretched state drunk—without following it up with a thousand more.—STATESVILLE DAILY.

For Improvement

THE Charlotte prohibition leaders have conceived the idea that the ABC system reflects the sincere convictions of a vast number of honest, upright and intelligent citizens, most of them church members.

She refused to live in the nation's capital, in fact was the only Cabinet wife who did not take her place here because her husband was not by courtesy. At first he spent about five days a week in Washington, with two days in New York. Then he gradually drifted into spending about two days a week in Washington, some five.

True, New York politics was important. Also Jim toured the country a great deal. But the job of running a great organization such as the Public Opinion Campaign, the Democratic National Committee, plus being an adviser to the President ordinarily requires seven-days-a-week concentration.

And it frequently happened that when FDR called intimate conferences, Jim Farley just wasn't around. More important than this, however, is the final Farley.

Change

THERE is no doubt but that times are changing. At one time it was not unusual for a rural vote in Mecklenburg ten years ago killed the state. This time there were more urban voters who favored the wet.

And again we say, these results will bring an avalanche of votes to the next General Assembly seeking city-wide votes on establishment of the stores.—CONCORD TRIBUNE.

Facet

ROOSEVELT break was the constant poison which Mrs. Farley poured into Jim's heart, said the fact that FDR could not get along with his family.

Once when the Farleys were walking down 8th Avenue in New York, Besp pointed to a big, shiny black limousine.

Today the House Administration Committee will decide whether it is sufficiently interested in opposing Farley to attempt to prevent a Federal liquor outlet recommendation to print a Library of Congress study of "Fascism in action." So far the report has been blocked in committee.

Last year a report on "Communism in action" was printed immediately. And, despite GOP economy talk, \$400 million was sent to members of the Senate and House and not at the Senator's request.

WASHINGTON (The special column following on the editorial "The New York Journal of Commerce made clear what the Wall Street community thought of the bill. The editorial had the headline: "Magill Appointment Undercuts Trend Toward Economic Stimulus Program of Tax Adjustment and Tax Reduction geared to the financial recovery program of the Administration."

Evidence is growing that some Republicans have a tax program they intend to try to put over next year. It is also evident that they want to try to shift as much of the burden of the proposed income tax as the excise or sales tax. In other words, they would shift to the kind of tax that penalizes the low-income groups.

A tax program must originate with the House Ways and Means Committee. The other day, Chairman Harold Knutson of that committee named a subcommittee to help draft a tax plan for 1948. He named them without consulting the Senate. His action was prompt, critics of dictatorship.

The tax committee has long lobbied to reduce income taxes in the higher brackets. In the House, the committee advocated a Federal sales tax. The chairman and prime mover of the measure is a member of the House Ways and Means Committee. The other day, Chairman Harold Knutson of that committee named a subcommittee to help draft a tax plan for 1948.

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Joseph & Stewart Also Labor Bill Politics

ON the eve of a new legislative session, the Labor Bill, it must be said that the record to date is a creditable one. The construction of the law-making process, the merits and demerits of the bill itself. For the plain fact is that the bill has been introduced by representatives of all groups to whom the bill is of interest.

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