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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1951

SCHOOLS—THE BIG MONEY PROBLEM

(Editorial Correspondence) RALEIGH

FROM the time the Advisory Budget Commission's report was made public in early January, it has been obvious that the No. 1 problem for the 1951 General Assembly is the preservation of the State's fine system of progressive public education against the inroads of inflation.

There are other problems. To be sure, that must be faced before an appropriations measure is finally written. The continuation of the hospital building program, merit raises for State employees, completing the 1947-49 permanent improvements program and several other less commendable expenditures were pointed up in the Governor's budget message. Since then, there have been many requests from State institutions and agencies for more money than the Budget Commission recommended.

But those problems pale into insignificance when compared with the public school issue. Everyone agrees that the General Assembly will have to appropriate more than the \$185 million recommended by the Budget Commission. Deciding how much more, and finding the sources of revenue are the two questions that must be answered. When they are answered, the General Assembly can literally pack up and go home.

YESTERDAY, in an hours-long hearing by the House and Senate Appropriations Committee held in the rampacked hall of the House of Representatives, representatives of the State Board of Education and the United Forces for Education mixed cold facts and warm oratory in telling the story of the schools' needs.

They showed convincingly that the State's present level of expenditures, pegged to conservatively-estimated revenue in the coming biennium, would shift North Carolina's educational program into reverse, would bring about an exodus of teachers from the profession, would increase teacher loads, would jeopardize the widespread transportation system, would reduce the free textbook coverage.

And they repeatedly emphasized that more than 600,000 children in North Carolina public schools would be the real sufferers.

Dr. Clyde Erwin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, expressed it this way:

To maintain the schools at the present level and teacher salaries at the 1947-49 level, \$3,335,807 more will be necessary in 1951-52, and \$6,500,790 in 1952-53.

Maintaining the schools at the current level, holding teacher salaries at the \$2,200-\$3,100 provided on a contingency basis for the 1940-61 biennium will require an increase, in addition to the figures above, of \$8,615,862 in 1951-52 and \$8,984,427 in 1952-53.

Expansion of school services as requested by the State Board will call for still another increase of \$13,522,440 in 1951-52 and \$20,951,358 in 1952-53.

In sum, to do the job as the State Board of Education thinks it should be done will require \$15,104,109 in the first year of the biennium and \$18,436,575 in the second year over and above the amount recommended by the Advisory Budget Commission. And that would just hold teacher salaries at their present level, make no allowance for the loss of real income because of inflation.

TAKE YOUR CHOICE

IT MAY WELL happen that foreign policy will become the dominant issue in the Presidential campaign. Candidates are to be judged by the recent debate in Congress, and the even more recent outburst of Republican oratory on Lincoln Day, the Republican party will have to get together before a foreign policy can be very much of an issue.

To date, the Republicans are divided on foreign policy just as widely as the Democrats are split on domestic policy.

At one extreme is Senator Wherry, who doesn't want to send a single U. S. soldier to Europe. Close behind him is Rep. Joseph Martin, who wants to devote most of our energy and effort to helping Chiang Kai-shek regain control of China.

At the other extreme is the titular head of the Republican Party, Governor Thomas Dewey of New York, whose enunciation of a worldwide Monroe Doctrine, including the warning to Russia that we will go to war if she oversteps the line, goes even further than the Administration policy. Mr. Dewey's views on all-out mobilization are advanced, also.

From The Asheville Citizen

POSTSCRIPT

Illusory to hope that the war crisis will end with the Korean business. We have no comment on the proof positive kind on whether this is prophetic or preposterous. Let's just life it away for a while. It could be that somebody will have to say to America: Well, I warned you. It could be Elder Statesman Barney Baruch.

It seems that no matter how you bring the United States to the point of being sure what the right answer to the most difficult question in all their history.

higher costs of living. To go all the way with the United Forces for Education and establish a \$2,400-\$3,600 salary schedule would require an additional \$17,912,287 in 1951-52 and \$21,427,287 in 1952-53.

ALTHOUGH the United Forces representatives are pursuing their campaign vigorously, and documenting it with impressive evidence about salary schedules in other states, there is little likelihood indeed that the General Assembly will go that far. To do so would require extensive upward revision of the state tax laws, and there is the strongest possible opposition to any tax increases beyond the most basic needs of the State Government.

It may be that the public school line can be held without any revision of the tax laws. The revenue prediction of the Advisory Budget Commission appears to be very conservative at a level of rising national income. North Carolina's revenue act, highly responsive to prosperity, will certainly produce more money than the \$146,000,000 estimated for each year of the coming biennium.

Upward revision of the revenue estimate would give enough leeway to establish the \$2,200-\$3,100 salary schedule on a permanent basis, even if it didn't cover the expanded services requested by the Board of Education. And it may be that the General Assembly will take this easy way out.

At least two of the extra services requested by the Board are of more than passing interest to the parents all over the State.

One is the provision for a salary and travel allowance officers in every school district who would be employed by local school units to enforce North Carolina's compulsory attendance law. Many thousands of school children quit school each year and the net result, according to Superintendent Erwin, is that "we are raising another generation of illiterates." Enforcement of the attendance law would cost \$424,800 and would be, according to Dr. Erwin, a fine investment policy for the elimination of illiteracy in North Carolina.

The other is the recommendation by the State Board that pupils who live within corporate city limits be transported to and from school at State expense if their homes are more than a mile and a half from the school. This was recommended in fairness and justice to city children by Superintendent Ben Smith of the Greensboro public school system. It would cost \$34,929.

The most encouraging thing about the Raleigh picture today is the unanimity of opinion that North Carolina's education system must not be allowed to deteriorate to the level of the highly-uncertain future. Even the "hold-the-line"ers, whom Governor Scott castigated in his Asheville speech yesterday, felt that the General Assembly will have to do something for the schools.

The question, as noted before, is how much? One good bet is that this General Assembly, in one way or another, will come up with enough money to keep the education system on its present level at least. But that is the absolute minimum objective from which there can be no retreat.

—C. A. MCKNIGHT

Somewhere in the middle is Senator Robert Taft who admits an obligation to the President, but who faithfully to the Administration policy, as does Senator Knowlton of Massachusetts. And Senator Kawanishi of California pursues still another line of reasoning. He supports the Administration in its European policy, but further than that, makes a tougher case of action in the Far East.

Until the Republicans get together, they will be at a disadvantage in the great national debate. In times like these, the American people don't want to use the multiple choice method in finding the right answer to the most difficult question in all their history.

Other Republicans fall in somewhere along the line. Senator Lodge of Massachusetts is the most faithful to the Administration policy, as does Senator Knowlton of Massachusetts. And Senator Kawanishi of California pursues still another line of reasoning. He supports the Administration in its European policy, but further than that, makes a tougher case of action in the Far East.

Until the Republicans get together, they will be at a disadvantage in the great national debate. In times like these, the American people don't want to use the multiple choice method in finding the right answer to the most difficult question in all their history.

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'See Any Knaves Approaching The Moat, Sir?'



People's Platform

School Training For Auto Drivers

education most people have intelligence and knowledge sufficient to teach themselves to drive properly. There are, therefore, less than 3,000 graduates per year who require training in the high schools in order to prevent them from causing accidents. As the cost of teaching the 33,000 who will graduate would be about \$394,000 per year (the figure stated that the Motor Club had found that it cost about \$18 per year per student) such cost would be out of all proportion to the results obtained and I doubt if such amount of money could be "found by carefully budgeting of the funds already appropriated for the schools". If so, it had better be used to increase the pay of the teachers now employed! It would do more good.

Assuming that 30,000 graduates obtain licenses to drive, there are left about 70,000 drivers per year (new) for whom no training would be available. As it is in that group of drivers where the "accident makers" are found it is evident that the training in the high schools would be like the rose which "wasted its fragrance on the desert air". While "compulsory training of all new drivers" is the slogan of the Highway Safety program, yet the training should be conducted in special schools conducted by the State Government. Also such training is a function of the Department of Motor Vehicles (Safety Bureau) and not of the Department of Public Education. Such a system of schools can be conducted at the cost of one dollar per year per registered car (safety tax).

—F. W. FOOTE

The First Sign Of Spring

(From The Goldsboro News-Argo)

IF Winter comes can Spring be far behind? Friday is Ground Hog day. He may or may not see his shadow, but Spring will be only six weeks away for this part of the good old world.

Pity the land that has no Spring, where Winter with its biting cold goes out one day and Summer with its scorching heat comes in right away.

Spring, that lay awakening time when life yawns and stretches and nature begins a new birth. The first sign of Spring is here. Two weeks ago the bright yellow bells spread their brilliance in Mrs. Hicks' yard. One day it was biting cold. One day the thermometer eased upward a bit. And next day the bright yellow bells were there to ease the heart and tell that nature's great alchemy is working. The yellow bells—also called forsythia that comes with proud bloom before any leaf appears.

Mrs. Hicks gave us some and the wife carefully put them in water for keeping until we should get to the yellow bells. They were there on the back porch. That night the temperature dropped and the water in the container turned to ice. But the yellow bells, as hardy and as steadfast as the human heart, continued to smile their brilliance.

He Couldn't Afford Us (W. G. Hazel, Pee Dee Advocate)

Now He's Married (Margaret News Herald)

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Stalin's Works Fail To Impress Mother

Victory In Korea

Gen. Matthew Ridgway personally is largely credited with turning the most humiliating defeat in 45 years of American military history into gradual victory in Korea.

Military men say that Ridgway has done an amazing job. Yet he did it with almost no reinforcements, and with a larger number of enemy forces against him than faced U. N. forces when General MacArthur was in direct command of the Chinese forces of 276,000 men plus 191,000 revitalized North Koreans face Ridgway today, more than the Communist army that knocked MacArthur off balance in North Korea and drove him back across the 38th Parallel.

Beleaguered Truman Tossed From Top To Trough Of Wave

By MARQUIS CHILDS

THE VISITOR to Washington in this cold and snowy weather can stand on the sidewalk in front of the old State, War and Navy Building and look across the street from the House of Representatives to the White House and see the cables stretched behind the steel poles to keep the opposite sidewalk free of all passersby. A block away the White House is being reconstructed. Having left severely damaged by the building, an army of workers are now putting in steel re-enforcements preparatory to restoring the structure. The scene is dominated by scaffolding, the movement of trucks in and out, piles of material will give him personal loyalty. That was conspicuous once again in his reaction to the critical report the Reconstruction Finance Corp. prepared by a Senate subcommittee headed by Sen William Fulbright of Arkansas. Fulbright's report was tried several times to present the picture to the President so that corrective action could be taken before public airing of conditions Fulbright believed to be wrong.

In connection with the "kick" strategy of Paul H. Nitze, who has been criticized by John R. Steelman, Assistant to the President, in his capacity as chief of staff, Nitze tried to have a provision written into the wage agreement for a year beyond the date that Mr. Truman's present term of office expires. The President referred harshly to the strikers as being like a bunch of Russians.

This, with similar incidents such as Mr. Truman's angry letter to music critic Paul Hume of the Washington Post, naturally stirs speculation about the President's future. There are close observers who believe that he has now put out of mind any thought of running for a second full term and is looking for a way to get out of the office that increasingly seems to deserve the description "landmark." It is improbable that any firm decision had been reached. But no man in Mr. Truman's position could be expected to take off the harness and live a private life again. Just now the President is in a position where Mr. Truman will be able to take a kind of working vacation in Washington. He is able to get away from some of the more irritating aspects of the job. But such a vacation could be expected merely to whet the appetite for a greater freedom.

Persian Shah's Action Seen As Force Against Poverty

By DeWITT MACKENZIE

WASHINGTON

IT'S A notable commentary on our times that Persia's recognize young Shah Reza Pahlavi as a leader who at long last recognizes abject poverty as being the cause of most of the unrest in their part of the world. Twice within recent days 32-year-old Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi has made striking moves to better conditions in his own country. The first was his announcement that he was giving up huge holdings to the languishing peasants. This week he capped this by ordering the divorcing of his marriage to the Princess Saraya Esfandiari should be stripped of the usual regal trappings for having lived for a couple more years with the way things are headed now Stalin won't want America.

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Not generally publicized is that almost sole responsibility for the defeat of General Ridgway for all practical purposes, MacArthur has been relieved of the fighting Korean command. Technically, of course, this is not true, because MacArthur still remains supreme commander. Actually, however, MacArthur virtually was relieved of his command when the President refused to send him the four National Guard divisions he requested early in January.

Further, Ridgway, coming direct to Korea from the United States, has been more independent than the field generals who had served under MacArthur in Japan and in Korea, having been close to him, looked to him for direction.

Pentagon officials emphasize that there has been no friction between MacArthur and General Ridgway. The latter has merely used different tactics.

Hoover And Truman

THOUGH on opposite sides of the political fence, and in vigorous disagreement on foreign policy, the President of the United States and the only living ex-President of the United States seem to have a strong bond of affection for each other.

Herbert Hoover once paid sincere tribute to Harry Truman at a Gridiron Club dinner. He has been known to praise Truman for having lifted the burden from him which for thirteen long years was imposed by Franklin Roosevelt.

Some White House friends have argued that Truman made a mistake by inviting Hoover to the State Department conferences, since the Administration's blessing has now put him in a position where he could damage Truman's foreign policy. However, the President has agreed, and the other day invited the ex-President to help him regarding relief for India.

Called to a meeting of cabinet members and other advisers, Truman introduced Hoover by saying:

number for fiscal '50 was 2600, and the rate is now slightly on the increase. GUARDS ADDED After the assassination attempt, Secret Service guards and policemen were added to the White House. Truman and his family are living. The visitor will observe a number of policemen and White House guards on duty behind the steel cables stretched behind the steel poles to keep the opposite sidewalk free of all passersby. A block away the White House is being reconstructed. Having left severely damaged by the building, an army of workers are now putting in steel re-enforcements preparatory to restoring the structure. The scene is dominated by scaffolding, the movement of trucks in and out, piles of material will give him personal loyalty. That was conspicuous once again in his reaction to the critical report the Reconstruction Finance Corp. prepared by a Senate subcommittee headed by Sen William Fulbright of Arkansas. Fulbright's report was tried several times to present the picture to the President so that corrective action could be taken before public airing of conditions Fulbright believed to be wrong. In connection with the "kick" strategy of Paul H. Nitze, who has been criticized by John R. Steelman, Assistant to the President, in his capacity as chief of staff, Nitze tried to have a provision written into the wage agreement for a year beyond the date that Mr. Truman's present term of office expires. The President referred harshly to the strikers as being like a bunch of Russians. This, with similar incidents such as Mr. Truman's angry letter to music critic Paul Hume of the Washington Post, naturally stirs speculation about the President's future. There are close observers who believe that he has now put out of mind any thought of running for a second full term and is looking for a way to get out of the office that increasingly seems to deserve the description "landmark." 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