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A JOB FOR THE COUNCIL

A GENERAL rule, The News does not examine City and County budgets as sharply as it scrutinizes State and Federal spending. There are at least two reasons for this.

1. Local budgets are fixed by hard-headed local businessmen who are not full-time politicians and who have to bear their own share of any increased local tax rate.

2. Local spending is usually for necessary purposes, and the results of the spending are always checked by the taxpayer.

These two factors serve as a brake on spending which do not exist in the same degree in State and Federal budget-making.

Nonetheless, the tentative City Government budget of \$6,642,068 handed the Council for a closer examination. And we sincerely hope the new Council will take a long, squinting look at it in the coming budget hearings.

The present City tax rate is \$1.97. The tentative budget calls for a tax rate of \$2.12. If an increase of one cent in the park tax and two cents in the City school supplement are authorized—and the need is great in each case—the tentative tax rate rises to \$2.15. That's an increase of 18 cents in the tax rate in one year!

In normal times, such an increase might be justified. But we doubt that local taxpayers will accept an 18-cent boost without a program that comes along with it.

In past years, tentative budgets (a compilation of department requests) have been scaled sharply before the adoption of a final figure. Last year, for example, the City's

LAW NEEDED FOR UTILITY STRIKES

ONCE again a temporary truce in the six-city bus strike has been arranged. This time so that members of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen may vote secretly on unopposed legislative proposals.

The truce was arranged after the mayors of the six cities called together for the second time representatives of the Duke Power Co., the Brotherhood and Federal and State conciliators. It is not known what new offers were made, but they apparently were of enough substance and importance to merit a ballot by the Brotherhood membership.

In all probability, this means the end to the 1951 disputes between the Duke Power Co. and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen. But what of 1952 and 1953? Is this getting to be an annual affair that will tie up essential transportation at any time the two parties cannot agree?

TUNES AND TEA ROOMS

BACK in World War IV there was considerable agitation to suppress the playing of the music in the U. S. Picnics at the Kaiser, the public took it out on the Beach. We have grown up some since that and now look back on that bit of lackluster ambergris.

Seems, however, that the South Koreans are having their first fling at musical patriotism and are determined that from Seoul to Tsingtu there shall be no singing.

A recent decree from the South Korean government that the singing of Japanese songs in the restaurants and tea rooms of the Land of the Morning Sun shall cease is not even inspired by hatred for the enemy, for it is the Chinese who face the South Koreans in battle.

FRAISES DES BOIS

THERE is a category of citizenry which we hereby, with no pomp, designate as Import Snobs; we can do without them. The perceptive among you will recognize the Import Snob in each of us.

He, or she, will watch you coyly as you spruce marmalade on your toast, fixing a smiling, curious eye on you as you take your first bite. Then they will spring on you the Big Surprise: "That marmalade came all the way from Scotland!"

You, like a suppliant, nod appreciatively and murmur: "I knew it had a different flavor."

INTRUDER AT DAWN

FOR some strange reason, he awoke and dressed an hour before the alarm went off. And for an equally unfathomable reason—perhaps just a whim—he decided to fix his own breakfast and enjoy it in the unaccustomed quiet and solitude of his room.

He took the tray on the porch, placed it on the table, sat down, and looked out. The sun was just peeping over the top of the hedge. His first ray struck the bright neck of the snoring bird on the post, and shimmering for what seemed to be minutes, before slipping down to the base and spreading over the nearby rose bushes.

Then he picked up the rose of rose one by one and made it to the table.

A squirrel, moved with curiosity about the stranger on the porch, hopped down a tree head first. He chattered excitedly, and what he said must have warned the birds,

tentative budget was \$6,791,316, which would have required a tax rate of \$2.21. It was cut to \$5,337,837, and the tax rate was set at \$1.97.

So far this year, neither City Accountant Livingston, City Manager Yancey, or any member of the Council has used his prying knife on the budget requests. They will all have to do so when the Council, which must apply to local spending the same rules of sacrifice and denial we all expect of the Federal Government.

The News suggests one place for the Council to start. Last year's final budget set out a total of \$440,000 for street paving and maintenance. That amounted to 25.51 cents of the \$1.97 tax rate. The tentative budget for next fiscal year increases that appropriation to \$565,413.28, which calls for 28.7 cents of the preliminary \$2.12 tax rate figure.

If no other street money was in sight, such a large appropriation from local funds might be justified on the basis of need. But the City is going to receive some State money for streets—at least \$400,000, and possibly more. And we suspect that the taxpayers will insist that the State money be used, partially at least, to relieve the local tax rate rather than be added to a list of already large street paving and maintenance programs.

These are rough times on the taxpayer. He's budgeted from every side by every agency of government. He should not be called on for a single penny that is not utterly essential.

The proof is in the performance, and The News is convinced that the time has come for the State of North Carolina to adopt legislation for dealing with strikes in public utilities, just as other states have done.

An employee of a vital public utility should not have the right to shut down that utility by striking. They are quasi-public employees, and their responsibility for maintaining public service at all times is just as great as that of firemen or policemen.

Yet there should be some means of redressing their legitimate grievances, and any law on the subject must provide those means in compensation for giving up the right to strike.

There is adequate time for the N. C. Attorney General's office to survey existing State legislation and draw up a model measure for presentation to the 1953 General Assembly, which should tell Mr. McMillan to hop to it without further delay.

Korean music of a popular nature, since the war has been for the past half-century under the rule of the Japanese. Cutting out Japanese music in South Korea means cutting out music. And if any people in the world need the lift of a lifting tune right now, the South Koreans are that people.

Quite honestly, the South Koreans government should re-examine its position on popular music; the vision of a score or so South Koreans sitting around glum and silent in a tea room while their throats burst to sing does not please us.

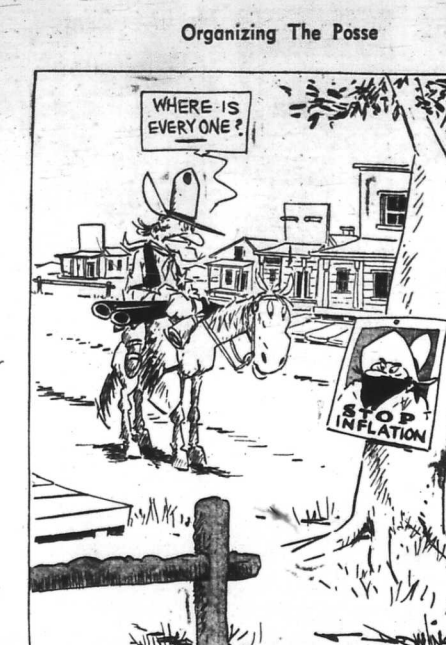
And beyond that, not even good old American chauvinism could convince us that a few choruses of "Open Door, Richard" (which, should just about be getting to Korea) are the best destruction of a reasonably melodic Oriental composition.

otic experiences for the palate—duck from China, coral snake meat from Guatemala, wild rice from the lower Ganges, tea from Ceylon.

The thing that set us thinking about the Import Snob, however, is rather new. It's fraises des bois. The delicacies are picked in the forests of France and 24 hours later are on sale in a New York department store. They are flown from Paris (by Air France) and purveyed for \$1 per eight ounces.

"Good news indeed for gourmets, whoever they be," you might exclaim (and honestly or yourself!) gushes the department store.

Fraises des bois are wild strawberries, in case an Import Snob springs them on you.



Mirror of the Press

100 Per Cent Plus

WHEN the House Ways and Means Committee sits down to write the tax bill, it needs the wisdom of Moses. Not only must it be able to meet a stupendous budget, taxes must be applied as a kind of poultice to draw spending power out of the inflationary boom.

How Totalitarian Can You Get? After all, the views of the teacher as to the consequences of the McArthur program seem pretty much in line with those of President Truman, Secretary of Defense Marshall and a lot of other people. Here it is that schoolteacher were the only man in the country to disagree with General McArthur and to refuse to holler in his honor.

Congress Dallies Inefficiency in the executive branch of the Government always, when noted, touches off a hue and cry in Congress. The House and Senate are notably numb, however, when the shoe is on the legislative foot, and no great notice is being taken on Capitol Hill of the fact that in terms of legislation enacted the present Congress has got less accomplished since Jan. 3 than any Congress in modern times.

A Bit Overstated A LITTLE over two months ago President Juan D. Peron of Argentina made an announcement implying that the Argentine government had produced controlled "thermonuclear reactions." identical with those whereby the sun releases atomic energy.

Quote, Unquote When you write anything for a little paper about everybody knows who wrote it. When you write for a big paper, in most cases, nobody knows who wrote it.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round MURRAY "The Camel" Humphrey, a graying gangster of the Capone era but still one of the nation's top top guys, snarled defiance at the Senate Crime Committee the other day in what was probably the most shocking sound of contempt in Senate history.

Family Causes Of Crime "YOU are going to be tried for contempt. I can tell you that," snapped the Wyoming Senator. "We are trying to do something about your home life. We are not going to solve this problem until we get to the very basis of what causes crime in the United States."

Persistent Tobey "I HEARD it, but isn't it our duty to defuse these things in a peaceful way? We can make a decent America?" Tobey kept on with evangelical fervor.

Crime Witness Defies Senate Committee "You are not questioning the Senator. The Senator is questioning you. You are the one who is the witness," retorted the witness sharply.

That was just an illustration," explained Tobey, then tried again: "Won't you take the opportunity to tell this committee how you are informed as to the criminals that are carrying on illegal business in our country?"

"You heard my statement," snarled Humphrey, referring to the witness before. "I am not going to answer questions that he wouldn't answer questions that might incriminate him."

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Senator Johnson Keeps Lid On A Keg Of Political TNT

By MARCUIS CHILDS

NO ONE has yet undertaken to write a thorough-going treatise on how to be a successful Senator. He likely suffers from the handy reference work is the senior Senator from Colorado, Edwin C. Johnson.

The essence of the Senator's formula for success seems to be the gentle art of sitting tight and saying nothing or practically nothing. Of late some of Senator Johnson's colleagues have been talking about him in these two fields with bitterness and resentment.

As chairman of the Senate Interstate & Foreign Commerce Committee, Johnson has been successfully ignoring all hints and suggestions that two unsavory situations be handled by the committee.

One is the shipping industry, with the sale and resale of government-built tankers and merchant vessels. The other is the shipping industry, with the sale and resale of government-built tankers and merchant vessels.

The second field is the airline industry. For years, Johnson has been a vocal proponent of the Civil Aeronautics Board's narrow interpretation of the Federal Aviation Act.

To get into these two situations realistically in the public interest would take two things. First, it would take the termination of the use of the top. Second, it would take a staff of skilled investigators.

Next year airline franchises offered. American companies operating in the CAB. Rumors about the high-powered—and highly paid—inflection that brought this out persisted in the aftermath of the political decision reversing all the experts.

Pan Am and W. R. Grace & Co., who shipped and sold a wide variety of interests in South America, are now in a legal battle over the right to carry passengers into New York. Both companies have a monopsonistic design on the part of the other.

If Pan American seems to figure largely in this account, it is perhaps because it is richer and more powerful than any other company, and because other lines were in the field earlier to barrier build-and-paid-off competition.

Next year airline franchises offered. American companies operating in the CAB. Rumors about the high-powered—and highly paid—inflection that brought this out persisted in the aftermath of the political decision reversing all the experts.

But I am certain she would have employed the ancient art of blackmail to get her old man out of the jailhouse. She is a real determined girl, even as her kids say, if she is only a Belgian.

Lucille, whom I believe to be a friend of mine, could be called an old-fashioned woman. She has a few revolves around the menfolk. She can weigh flattery to the last gram, and is awfully good at inflating the male ego.

In so far as springing her husband was concerned, I am sure that she was the first to murder anyone who got in her way. And I am also sure that she likes to see her husband's head over it. Hers is a type of family loyalty that is deeply ingrained in the European mind.

Lucille is pretty enough to make a woman of her own. She has a wonderful sense of humor to go with the beauty and the brains, and she likes to see her husband's head over it. Hers is a type of family loyalty that is deeply ingrained in the European mind.

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