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Editorial Correspondence

Hodges Must Jockey A Legislature That Is No Longer Easy To Bridle

By CECIL PRINCE
Editor, The News
RALEIGH

IN THE folklore of Tar Heel politics, inauguration day is open season for tiresome dramatics, reeled evening clothes and feckless vapors of sentimentality. Traditionally, all this is accompanied by staggering quantities of red, white and blue bunting and more ceremonial folderl than ordinarily accompanies the installation of a Chibcha chief. But this 1957 edition had certain original qualities. First of all, it got off to a rousing start an early hour when a band of celebrating statesmen lifted their voices in song to the tune of something from "Oklahoma":

Oh what a terrible mornin',
Oh what a terrible day;
We gotta horrible feelin'
Taces ain't goin' our way.

If there was a note of fiscal sadness lurking in their lyrics, there was nothing melancholy in the manner. They were simply paying their own fuzzy tribute to the force that may keep taxes from going their way or the way to which many a Tar Heel has become accustomed for generations.

THAT force is Luther Hartwell Hodges, the man who told four and a third million Tar Heels today that North Carolina "must not stand still," that North Carolina must move steadily ahead with "a forward thrust, and sense of direction, and infusion of important knowledge."

Next week, he will outline in detail how he wants the General Assembly to revamp North Carolina's corporate tax structure, reorganize some of its most hidebound political institutions, and even reapportion its legislative seats.

This is the kind of evangelical personality that gave the 1957 inauguration and the opening of the 1957 session of the General Assembly a thoroughly different tone.

AS HE began his new term of office today, Gov. Hodges faced the problem of jockeying a legislature that many say is no longer his to ride. But he spoke today with the same unabashed confidence in himself and his program that has already stamped his administration. He outlined his hopes and dreams for North Carolina without reliance on perquisites or cant or twisted logic. His inaugural address was simply illustrative of his own and North Carolina's reigning optimism and faith in progress.

His thesis was simple: Tar Heels are the inheritors of a splendid tradition of greatness. Yet it is not enough to inherit greatness. North Carolina must build upon it. But does North Carolina have the capacity for a new era of progress at a time when social and economic problems are festering so dangerously in the state's subconscious? Yes, says Gov. Hodges.

We are a moderate, but progressive people. Since our earliest days, our citizens have faced many tough and serious problems without panic or extremes. There is a characteristic stability about our people and our approach which is most important. This stability and moderation have enabled

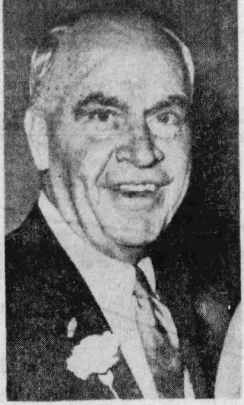
Let Records Recommend A Senator

THE scramble for Mecklenburg's vacant Senate seat has opened with all the elegance and decorum of a dogfight. Among Democrats, this is neither unusual nor censurable conduct. Lusty factional infighting not only serves as a periodic tonic for the party; it often stimulates profitable truth-telling in public view.

But there are moments of decision demanding disinterested public service when blind factionalism can severely weaken a party. Particularly is this true in a county where voters have displayed a penchant for "unmanned" candidates with a flair for independent judgment and thorough attention to public duties. Such a moment has arrived, we believe, for the Democrats of Mecklenburg.

The community's need to be served in the state senate by the most capable citizen possible is obvious. Mecklenburg's senator has a virtual veto power over local legislation—a power Rep. Jack Love has indicated he would summarily exercise against annexation. He has the responsibility of promoting and protecting broad and complex urban interests in a chamber distinguished neither by sympathy nor understanding for those interests. The effective discharge of his powers and responsibilities requires on the senator's part a large fund of knowledge, maturity, and dedication to the public's business.

The duty of Mecklenburg Democrats to fill the Senate seat with a man so equipped is equally obvious. Less apparent but not less real is the party's need to do so after suffering successive



Gov. Luther Hodges

us to deal with even the most controversial of issues with calmness, resolve and understanding.

Legislators and guests listened and applauded. But one could see dozens of political pistols being loaded today for the popular governor who expects so much so suddenly.

IF THERE was ever an omen as to the mood of the 1957 legislature, it came yesterday when the full House of Representatives was rapped to order for the first time. The meeting opened on a note of prayer and harmony which everybody understood was not to be held binding. Within an hour, the floor had erupted in a washbasin debate over a rather cut-and-dried bill covering legislators' subsistence allowances. The argument rattled on and on until a dozen representatives had registered their own particular brand of discontent. It was as if members were serving notice that even the most minute matters will not escape their wrath in 1957.

Amid the clinking glasses, the rustle of silk, the self-conscious twisting in Sunday-go-to-meeting clothing at this inauguration, there was the feeling that petulance had indeed been building up for a long time in North Carolina's political hinterlands. The old pole have been too long without a serviceable target. Some of them still miss old Kerr Scott in Raleigh, an aggressively cantankerous chief executive who seemed actually to juggle a good political rascal's match from time to time. Gov. Hodges' aggressive, too, but his is a vastly pious nature. He shuns free-for-alls and has so far avoided them with admirable agility.

There will be no opportunity to sidestep in 1957. The governor's program is too weighty. For a stick-and-move fighter, he is suddenly leading with his chin. The progress North Carolina must build will not come easily.

Several candidates have recommended themselves. But the senator Mecklenburg needs ought to be recommended by his record of community service and capabilities.

A victory for any purely factional candidate will likely be a loss for the community and for Mecklenburg Democrats.

Tax collections in fiscal year 1956 averaged out to \$447 per person in the United States as against a figure of \$1.98 per person in 1885. No wonder old-timers talk about the good old days.

The statisticians have now found that nine out of every 10 women are knocked. And all the time people have thought that statisticians never had any fun.—CARLSON CURRENT-ARGUS.

There may be much more money around in Grandpa's day, but there weren't so many things to spend it on, either.—HAWKINSVILLE (Ga.) DISPATCH & NEWS.

We enjoyed hearing this description the other day of a bubbly lady whose veracity had come into question: "Well, she doesn't exactly tell the truth all the time. There just isn't that much truth."—CHICAGO DAILY TRIBUNE.

Good Schools Are This Generation's Debt To The Next

By WALTER LIPPMANN

IN OUR own home affairs, the President has given top priority to the proposal that Congress grant federal aid to states in order to build public schools. The case for this federal aid rests on the hard fact that since the war the number of children ready for schools has grown much faster than has the construction of school rooms in which to accommodate them.

This year the enrollment in our schools exceeds their normal capacity by more than two million children. This means overcrowding in the class rooms to the point where great numbers of children are being denied a decent education. This denial is in the true sense of the term an emergency. For when children miss an education, the loss cannot be repaired easily later on. Children who do not receive a decent education when they are of school age are almost certain to go through life without having had a decent education.

IMPRESSIVE EFFORT The critical shortage in class rooms cannot fairly be attributed to a failure of the states and localities to meet their responsibilities. Here and there no doubt there are such failures, but the total effort made by the states and localities is impressive. During the past year and a half, we have built 63,000 new class rooms. This is a record, particularly

when compared with ten years ago when the rate of construction was \$100 million annually. Yet this large number will not be enough even to replace class rooms that have become obsolete and unusable and to provide for the new enrollments, which are increasing each year. Just to stand still where we are, there are needed all the class rooms that have been built this year. In the meantime, against the total efforts of the local authorities, there is a backlog deficit of 150,000 class rooms.

TEN-YEAR NEED

In a recent publication of the Department of Commerce, it was estimated that for school construction four billion dollars would be needed annually for the next ten years. The total would mean that the rate of expenditure would have to rise 60 per cent over the current level, which is 2.6 billion. This increase would be a rise of 1.4 billion a year. The President is asking the federal government to contribute less than one-quarter of this amount annually, hoping that by compelling the states to match the federal grants, the whole need can be met. The administration effort to set up a fund of 750 millions to purchase school bonds does not raise the total. Local communities from raising most of the money to pay for the new schools. It is



PRESIDENT EISENHOWER 'The Need Is Real'

There will be all those who, looking for ways to carry out Secretary Humphrey's injunction to cut expenditures, will be tempted to begin with federal aid for the schools.

SPECIAL INTERESTS

It is often asserted that all the subsidies and grants which appear in the federal budget are there because of the special interests of pressure groups. There is, of course, some truth

in this. But as a generalized rule, it is untrue and grossly unfair. In the case of federal aid for schools, it is truer and fairer to say that the opposition comes from pressure groups whereas the support is truly national and public spirited. There is no special interest which is going to be favored specially by the adoption of these proposals. The demand for them comes from teachers and school superintendents, from parents and from civic leaders who are worrying about our failure to provide a large part of the coming generation with adequate schooling.

PUBLIC DUTY

Indeed the support of education by the localities, the states, and the federal government is like the support of the national defense. It is a public and patriotic duty which this generation owes to the next. Can we afford to support American education? The answer is: if we cannot afford not to support it, do we have the money to support it? Well, in the past 25 years the national income has risen 300 billion dollars while the amount we spend on education has increased by little more than seven or eight billions.

The truth is that it is absurd to say that the richest country in the history of mankind cannot afford both to defend itself and to educate its children.

Political Spending Report Shows Rise Of Class Parties

By MARQUIS CHILDS

WASHINGTON SO startling are the facts about campaign contributions and spending in the presidential election last fall as developed by the Senate Committee on Elections and the House Committee on Education and the Labor Committee that the only question now is whether the shock to public opinion will be such as to compel Congress to pass legislation putting on more effective restraints.

The chairman of the committee, Sen. Albert Gore of Tennessee, says very well that his finding will just be another report put away in the files unless enough people are sufficiently shocked to demand action.

CLASS PARTIES

It is not merely the extent of the spending and the inequity between the two parties that is revealed in the voluminous report signed by the two major members of the committee, Gore and Sen. Mike Mansfield of Montana, but that it is the nature of a system of class parties, one supported by big business and the other by labor, contrary to all the traditions of American political life.

As shown by the committee's analysis, the contributions of one per cent of the American people provided the \$3,185,725 which is the total the committee accounted for. Actually, of course, a great deal more than that was spent since as the report suggests contributions passed under the table and given to the multitudinous state and local committees not required to tally contributions and expenditures add up to

much more. One family, the Du Ponts, gave more than the total of contributions from 15 southern states.

COMPLAINT AGAINST LABOR

The statement of the minority member of the committee, Sen. Carl T. Curtis of Nebraska, is confined largely to a complaint against labor. It was impossible to determine the extent of indirect trade union activity — "educational" and otherwise — in behalf of Democratic ticket. Curtis complains of the "manpower" used by the unions to get the Democratic vote and of the threat of coercion and compulsion inherent in big unions.

But as Curtis does not point out, corporations have the same privilege as trade unions, and they unquestionably use it in the last campaign, to make indirect use of their resources including manpower in behalf of the Republican ticket.

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY

If the present free-wheeling system goes unchecked it is certain to encourage greater extremism in the two parties. He who pays the bills, the saying goes, calls the tune. And here the Eisenhower Administration has a special responsibility which it has not met. The present administration is avowedly a business administration. The top positions, including the regulatory commissions, theoretically impartial and quasi-judicial, have been filled for the most part with business men

as nationwide campaigns. This would draw immediate opposition from the one-party states of the South and the North.

"While it may be conceded," the committee report notes, "that high campaign costs are one of the essential facts of the American way of life, the existence on the statute books of federal laws, the object of which is to curb spending in political campaigns, and which falls miserably to do so, can serve only to demoralize the political climate and breed contempt for existing laws."

It may be that the political climate is already so demoralized that the first reaction of shock will be followed by the indifference that has settled down on similar although less comprehensive revelations. The Republicans, or many of them, are naturally reluctant to offer a system that fills their coffers more or less effortlessly.

That a political campaign should have cost perhaps as much as \$200,000,000 is an astonishing fact. It may be true that high political office with rare exceptions cannot be bought. But a political system can be debauched and debased by the unlimited use of money and particularly when one economic group, with a lion's share of the power, is waged against another economic group in a spending war.

'It's Good To Almost See You Again, Too, Governor'

People's Platform

Elevate Vogler To Blythe Post

Charlotte Editors, The News: It is with deep regret that we read of the resignation of Sen. Blythe. It is with deeper regret that Sen. Blythe's resignation due to his health will not allow representation of the state Senate in accordance with the vote of the majority at the last election.

Sen. Blythe has contributed much in his service to Mecklenburg County. Therefore, does it not seem that it would lift Sen. Blythe above false accusation of charge of playing politics and at the same time reserve the mandate of the voters if his successor were the member of the House of Representatives from Mecklenburg County who received the largest number of votes at the last election?

I believe that the records will show that Rep. James Vogler received such a vote. Therefore, if we are to preserve sincerity of

the majority, would not it be logical for all parties concerned to how to the will of the majority? Such a move, I am sure, would open all possibilities of casting a shadow of insincerity upon the fine record of Sen. Blythe.

—CHARLES MANCHESTER

Whisky And Sin Boon Companions

Charlotte Editors, The News: I SURE agree with Mr. Yandle when he writes about whisky. I am sure there would be more happy homes and well-fed children if liquor had never been made. I have heard people boast of how much they could drink and still be able to walk.

I just hope the day will come when it will be breaking the law to sell whisky. Today I know man and women members of the church who spend lots on whisky and beer and go to God's house on Sunday.

—MRS. MAYME BARGER

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON I F ex-heavyweight boxing champ Joe Louis should make a million dollars a year he probably could not pay the government all his back taxes before he dies.

This is because Joe didn't realize how big his tax bracket was when money came easy, got behind in his payments, and the government is now paying him interest at the rate of nearly \$100,000 a year. If he made a million dollars a year, his annual income tax would be \$210,000, and he would have to pay the government only \$90,000 on his back taxes—less than the annual bill for interest.

Trust Fund

Joe has taken up weeping lately, and in the past three months has paid the government \$124,000. However, the Treasury recently attached a \$65,000 trust fund to his salary. The bill has a balance of \$1,119,457, and paying interest, penalty, and interest.

Joe Louis Denied Settlement On Taxes

Joe's lawyers say they have discussed a settlement with the government, but so far, have had little encouragement. Meanwhile, ex-heavyweight champ Jack Dempsey, who is now running a restaurant, has done a deal with John Youngblood and George Reeves Jr., of Chicago, to help Louis with his huge tax debt.

Tax Puzzles

Interesting question about the Joe Louis tax case is what yardstick the Treasury uses to compromise a tax case. To answer the question, this column scrutinized some of the tax settlements on record in the Treasury and came away more puzzled than ever. It seemed to depend on what lawyer or accountant you hired.

Some Settlements

For instance, the American Distilling Co. owed the Treasury \$13,000,000. It settled for a little over \$1,000,000 or 10 cents on the dollar. It hired the tax-accounting firm of T. Coleman Andrews, who later became commissioner of Internal Revenue. Here are some other tax cases re-



Compromise

Newman's Lake House, Saratoga Springs, N. Y., owed \$152,605.69 and made a compromise payment of \$20,000, of which \$2,000 was a down payment, with \$3,600 paid annually in five installments of 6 per cent interest. The restaurant is owned by Mrs. Catherine King and her father, John J. King Sr. The settlement was made because New York state refused to renew the restaurant's liquor license. It went heavily in debt.

Thomas' Offer

Another case was that of ex-Congressman Parnell Thomas of New Jersey, who served time for taking salary kickbacks. He owes \$21,362, has a net worth of \$11,200, and offered to compromise for \$100. The Treasury refused, finally agreed to take payments from Thomas of his income over \$5,000 a year through the year 1961.

More FCC Politics

More of the Federal Communications' political chokers are coming home to roost. On top of the commissioners' reversal of their examiner in the Boston Herald and Traveler case, they are now in hot water in Jacksonville, Fla.

There, the FCC politicos who decide who shall get the multimillion-dollar television permits, reversed their own examiner and awarded a channel to the Florida-Georgia TV Company. The FCC examiner had ruled in favor of the Jacksonville Broadcasting Company, but after politics were pulled, the FCC reversed the nonpolitical expert who spent weeks listening to the testimony and deciding which applicant was best qualified to do a public-service job for the people of Jacksonville.