



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Withholding: N. C. Needs A Steady Diet

Like assorted Hamlets brooding on the wall, the Senate Finance Committee has agonized for a week on the Hodges tax-withholding plan.

With favorable report likely, the junta in opposition to the withholding plan succeeded in getting the bill amended to include corporations Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the committee extracted the corporations, as two senators changed their votes in a surprise reconsideration. The switchers claimed they had not seen the amendment as a stratagem against the bill. But the crack of administration whips was rather audible in the background.

Subjecting corporations to the provision, which will tax income on a pay-as-you-go basis throughout the year, had the advantages of equity and standard federal practice on its face. Its worth was clouded, however, by the open admission that opponents of the withholding plan injected it as a stumbling block. Sen. Bob Morgan of Harnett, leader of the anti-withholding forces, told the story when he moved the amendment, including corporations, then voted against a favorable report for the bill itself.

Gov. Hodges has pressed hard for a tax-withholding plan. A much-ballyhooed "windfall" of \$27.5 million would flow to the state purse early in 1960, with pay-as-you-go funds for 1960 and back taxes for 1959 both coming in. With it, Gov. Hodges hopes to balance the budget on his spending program for 1959-61.

But the "windfall" is at best a rich mid-night snack, not a steady diet. The state will receive it in only one year, the first of withholding, and Gov. Hodges designs to use it to balance a budget whose critics claim it is at starvation level and inadequate to meet North Carolina's requirements.

No, not the temporarily fattening "windfall" but the steady diet is the better reason why withholding should be passed.

Withholding will not increase tax rates, it will simply assure North Carolina of what is already its lawful due. Revenue Commissioner James Currie estimates that some 32,000 Tar Heel "tax-dodgers," many of them unwitting, will pay state income taxes for the first time. Withheld taxes from wages will net the state an additional \$1 to \$2½ million yearly, costing only some \$100,000 to \$150,000 to collect.

"As sure as death and taxes," runs the old saw. But taxes on wages are not sure at present. Often owing to death itself, to transience from state to state, and to employers who refuse to report wage information, North Carolina is short-changed by the taxpayers.

The withholding plan's critics are right about one thing, however. It should not be mistaken as a full-bodied answer to North Carolina's revenue needs. Like the new minimum wage law, it will only make a good beginning.

The State's Expectation For Voters

North Carolina's literacy test for voters is like a sharp knife. Registrars can wield it to cut from the voting rolls those who cannot read and write selected parts of the state constitution. In this it is Jeffersonian, reflecting that austere democrat's belief that ill-read voters are bad voters.

Or, as Mrs. Louise Lassiter of Northampton County is arguing before the Supreme Court this week, the literacy test can become a weapon with which to quietly lay Negro voters away. Mrs. Lassiter tried to register in Northampton County some three years ago, but election board officials left her name off the lists because she could not pass their test.

Samuel S. Mitchell of Raleigh, her lawyer, argues that the literacy test "reaches an absolute mark of arbitrariness and subjectivity," there being no law which tells registrars how or when to give the test. He also argues that the test, a parsing knife become a liquidation weapon, is

used indiscriminately against Negroes. If evidence supports this, the Supreme Court will probably waste no time in ordering North Carolina's literacy test scrapped. So used, literacy tests clearly do violence to the most basic civil rights.

However, the justice rule, the principle of requiring literacy of voters is sound, if austere. Father Jefferson, to whom we must customarily defer in these matters, might well tip his three-cornered hat. As the ancient qualifications for ballots have gradually fallen to the demands of democracy, about the only reasonable expectation under present theory is that a voter be literate. Even if he is often irrational or lazy in applying his ability to read and argue, there is reason to hope that a voter sometimes brings it to bear. A state can't reasonably expect to police a citizen's mental habits. But now that political complexity taxes even the most learned, it can expect that a citizen have the equipment of literacy in reserve.

Vocabulary Increase Noted Here

The studied word has arrived from the Psycho-Educational Clinic at Northwestern University.

This month it concerns itself with a nine-year check of 2,000 children, a formidable sampling, to say the least. The findings are that the average elementary school pupil watches television for 20 hours each week, but that no harm is done.

The clinic notes this composite student sleeps more than did the youth of pre-television days, has more hobbies and that television has increased his vocabulary.

We can underline that vocabulary finding from a one-family, two-year study of our own.

These siblings don't refer to one another by name. It's usually, "Hey you ornery polecat," or "I'll drill ya, gumshoe." They don't ask for soft drinks by brand name. It comes out as "Gimme a slug of red-eye."

From The Richmond News Leader

THE GENERAL AND THE INDIANS

During the week of June 21-27, we are informed, Brig. Gen. Herbert C. Holdridge, U. S. Army (Ret.) and his Indian Minute Men plan to invade the nation's capital, in order to dispossess the "outlaws" and obtain justice at last for the Red Man. From the supremely confident tone of the general's report, the Page, Wall Street and the AFL-CIO, marks him as a flamboyant relic of another day. In his wild and indignant prose are blended the accents of the I.W.W., the Populists, and practically every other radicalism the United States has spawned in the past half-century. Whatever it is, the general is again 'it,' except for the Indians, who are God's Chosen People.

Included in the issue of "Revolution" which orders "general mobilization" of the faithful, there is a sprightly account of a feeling-out operation some weeks ago. On March 19, the general reports, he and 150 Indians in battledress picketed the White House, but were unable to gain audience with President Eisenhower. Ike, however, sent an embassy, who prudently listened from behind the iron gates while the Minute Men read their bill of particulars. Denied a hearing with

the Great White Father, Gen. Holdridge and his war party proceeded to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, there to demand Commissioner Glenn L. Emmons for "crimes of violence" against the Indians.

The commissioner, forewarned of the delegation's intent, was "in conference," however, and the Minute Men had to be content with addressing their remarks to a Cherokee receptionist, a dozen policemen and assorted reporters and photographers. Later on that same eventful day, the general, in full uniform, and his chiefs paid a call at the British Embassy and also saw that their protest to the United Nations was properly launched. Now, the general's patience with "peaceful appeals" is plumb exhausted. He wants action, by thunder, and he means to have it.

While declining his call to arms, we have about decided to keep our powder dry and watch this fight from the sidelines. The federal government's treatment of the Indians has been, on the whole, shabby and niggardly. They have a legitimate gripe. As for their commander-in-chief, he has a tomahawk, which takes its place among the many other axes he intends to grind. Though fired by as eccentric a set of convictions as we've seen in a long time, the general is a healthy sign that vigorous dissent has not vanished entirely in this age of indifference. Katy, bar the door and break out the carbines! The Indians have risen!

'Nah, I Didn't Say Nothin' About Startin' No Rumble'



Foreign Aid Revisited

Conquering A Wilderness

By WALTER LIPPMANN

WASHINGTON

There is building up in this country a resistance to the foreign aid appropriations which must be taken very seriously by the friends of foreign aid. The resistance has become a special ally of the friends of the foreign aid bill.

It is not only because it is unpopular to provide money for foreigners at a time when at home it is necessary to retrench on all sorts of desirable projects. The great new fact is that the supporters of foreign aid are so disenchanted with the existing program that they cannot advocate it wholeheartedly.

Sen. Mansfield, like Sen. Fulbright before him, has read the signs of the times. He sees that if foreign aid is to remain part of our foreign policy, the program will have to be reformed.

THE MANSFIELD PROGRAM

It is to this state of affairs that Sen. Mansfield addressed himself last week. He came forward with what seemed to me an essentially moderate but nevertheless, a searching and effective proposal. Its object is to compel a thoroughgoing re-examination of the administration of that part of the foreign aid program which causes the greatest doubt and discontent. This is the part providing grants and gifts as distinguished from loans. It amounts to about 35 per cent of the total appropriation. Here are subsidies to enable weak countries to maintain larger military establishments than their economic life, and their capacity to raise revenue, would justify.

Sen. Mansfield's proposal is that an amendment should be

attached to the current foreign aid bill which "will require, in the case of nations receiving grants of defense support or economic assistance, that the executive branch work out in detail with the recipient nation, and submit in connection with next year's aid bill, a detailed plan for the progressive reduction of these grants" so as to terminate them within three years.

REDUCING EXCESS

The amendment does not say that direct military aid is to be terminated in three years. What it says is that by next year there must be plans for each country for reducing the economic aid which enables it to maintain an over-sized military establishment. The plan would show how the armaments can be reduced to a size which the country can digest. We can still supply arms beyond those which the country can pay for. We can still supply arms but only in the amount which the country can take without inflation and disorder.

The cutting edge of the Mansfield amendment is that it would compel the administration to reappraise, to re-examine, and to justify from the beginning and all over again, each military aid program. The amendment does not say that Congress has the right to cut off military aid if it is not satisfied with the administration's plan.

It can be argued that there are many in Congress who will vote for foreign aid only if they are persuaded that it buys guns aimed directly at Russia or China. They do not think that the development of backward countries is any interest of theirs. Presumably then, this opposition will be just willing to vote for foreign aid which emphasizes civilian development.

As against them, however, there will be, so I believe, an ardor and enthusiasm for a new contract, a bloodless and bloodless victory, a victory which is sadly lacking today for the old one. The American people are the heirs of generations of men and women who conquered wilderness, and they will listen to good leaders when they explain to them how they are involved in the same year, to conquer the wilderness of poverty and subjection in Asia and in Africa and in South America.

SEN. FULBRIGHT
Handwriting On A Wall

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

The big airplane companies which have a stranglehold on defense missile production have lost round 1 in their lobbying to increase profits. They've been trying to knock out the reorganization clause in defense contracts, by which the Pentagon can recover excess profits. This clause expires June 30. And the big aircraft lobby backed by the National Association of Manufacturers and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce has hired an interesting lobbyist.

Lobbyist

He is Barron E. Grier, former chief of the House Ways and Means Committee. Grier wasn't hired by accident. The Ways and Means Committee, happens to be the key group which must pass on the extension of the reorganization bill.

Most taxpayers don't realize it, but the largest part of their income tax goes for defense spending. And the

largest part of defense spending goes to the big airplane and missile companies. They haven't been doing badly.

Killing Second Looks

Boeing, which has now surpassed General Motors as the No. 1 defense contractor, averaged a profit on invested capital (after taxes) of 32 per cent in 1952, 1953 and 1954. Douglas Aircraft averaged about 85 per cent profit in 1953 and '54. Fairchild made 173 per cent in 1953, Grumman profited 71 per cent on capital investment in 1953. Lockheed profited 79 per cent in the same year. Glenn Martin averaged 78 per cent in '53 and '54. North American Aviation averaged 294 per cent in 1953-54. Tenac Aircraft averaged 41 per cent in 1952 and 1953.

Nevertheless these big beneficiaries from defense spending want to kill the reorganization clause by which the government can take a second look at any company which makes too much money.

The 'Stream Of Flowers' Was A Touch Too Tacky

By ROBERT C. RUARK

I thought I had reached the ultimate in boredom when Eddie Fisher and Debbie Reynolds were going steady for what seemed like ten thousand years of newspaper, but I find it is not impossible to achieve true perfection, even in boredom.

I have topped myself in the boredom league with Ed and Debbie's spousal of Elizabeth Taylor. I am even bored with the fact that Eddie Cantor, who is described as "an old friend of the family," had tears in his eyes. They would be very large tears, which is show business. Somehow I am not moved by love in Las Vegas, especially when it's been going on so long.

DARTING AROUND

There was a time back when Rita Hayworth was darting around the world with Ali Khan, with the residue of her last marriage, little Rebecca Welles, clinging to her fast, that the world arose in anger and did not arise in anger, because Rita gave me the only line I ever wrote that I can remember a week later. If you will pardon a request, it seems to me I said something like: "You cannot really find this groove creature. For let me be sure, she has discovered a new trade route to the ladies."

UNMOVED

The religious aspects of a truly Jewish wedding did nothing much to move me, either, in the case of Liz and Eddie, because I respect other people's faiths, and this marriage seemed a likelier candidate for the justice of the peace than a full-scale synagogue sealing. The love-affair sex score, starting with Glenn Davis, and progressing through Nicky Hilton, Michael Wilding and Mike Todd plus Debbie Reynolds on the Fisher side, seemed to me to be a touch confused.

GAMY FOR TEMPLES

That her last, dead husband's son was the best man in this monument to busting up other people's homes, this solid statue to the igniting of the ordinary tenets of widowhood and other girls' marriage, especially when great female friendships were involved — seemed a little gamy for a temple. Maybe they needed two rabbis and a chance to fumigate a marriage which, if made in heaven, certainly took the long way round before it arrived at Temple Beth Shalom.

In all probability, we shall find that in certain countries it is necessary to continue, not to reduce or to terminate, the grants or gifts. But in other countries we may expect to find that there are over-sized military establishments which, far from being a defense against communism, serve only to arouse popular discontent and that far from being defenses of liberty are the support of despots.

CIVILIAN EMPHASIS

The Mansfield proposal, I should add, does not touch the Point Four Program or the Development Loan Fund. These we may confidently believe, are destined to play an even bigger part in the future than they have in the past. The Mansfield proposal is, however, aimed directly at reducing the emphasis on military aid and increasing the emphasis on civilian development.

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In rather amazing disagreement with a recent letter to me in The News, Gen. Hester states that the rulers of Russia "are not" unprincipled communists. He maintains that I am, now a rogue is an unprincipled person, a trickster and a rascal. A cut-throat characteristic which must necessarily be attributed to Soviet rulers — and I noted Gen. Hester didn't attempt to refute it.

In support of the contention that the Soviet rulers are also rogues, I submit that since the U. S. recognized Russia in



ELIZABETH TAYLOR
A Package Deal

knewled so they shouldn't make trouble for the rumors. I am especially rudely from gambling joints in Las Vegas, with everybody neatly settled in except for the bride and groom. The bride is crying directly to the wicker, while hubby-to-be is still a little bit married. I know show business is a new business, but you can take it too far.

STREAM OF FLOWERS

I also think that getting a divorce-remarriage, package style, is a little much, with Eddie rushing from signing his divorce papers across the hall to take out the out-of-the-land-death-remarriage package. The something old, something borrowed, something blue ought to have more significance than an old handkerchief of her mother's.

I believe Eddie had to sing until two o'clock before the formal honeymoon began, and his last number was entitled, "A Place for Us," and he is quoted as saying, while posing with Liz in his dressing room, after her presence in the audience had involved the flames in the light bulbs.

"So this is show business, darling," said Eddie.

"I know, darling," said Liz. "Life is just a highway stream of flowers," said Eddie.

"Oh, how romantic you make it all seem, darling," said Liz. "Personally, I much preferred the quiet capsule of Mr. Fisher's lawyer, a Mr. David Goldwater, after the formal divorce of Eddie from Debbie was conducted."

"Everything went along very nicely," said Mr. Goldwater. "I'll say it did. And if this is show business, or marriage, you can have it for your very own."

People's Platform

The Red Rogues Are Still Rogues

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

Hugh B. Hester (Brig. Gen., U. S. Army, Retired), can claim a modest share of fame because he's the brother of the late John W. Hester (Pittsburgh), a patriotic and intelligent amateur observer of state, national and international affairs.

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the early 1930's, the latter has broken some forty mutual agreements out of some forty entered into.

When Soviet apologist Hester has "explained away" this fact, then we'll discuss his abstract references to "principles of Christianity," "democracy," and "the pull of free life" — all of which mean, presumably, as a practical matter in Gen. Hester's liberal philosophy, that Soviet tyrants should not be thwarted in their avowed aim to destroy American civilization.

In fond memory of the late, venerable conservative, John W. Hester, I offer these comments — which are believed to be more compatible with what would have been his own beliefs on this subject, than any his liberal brother Hugh entertains.

— J. R. CHERRY JR.

Quote, Unquote

"Modern poets are bells of lead. They should tinkle melodiously but usually they just clunk." — Lord Dunsany.

The Missile-Makers Lose Round 1

WASHINGTON

The big airplane companies which have a stranglehold on defense missile production have lost round 1 in their lobbying to increase profits. They've been trying to knock out the reorganization clause in defense contracts, by which the Pentagon can recover excess profits. This clause expires June 30. And the big aircraft lobby backed by the National Association of Manufacturers and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce has hired an interesting lobbyist.

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Nevertheless these big beneficiaries from defense spending want to kill the reorganization clause by which the government can take a second look at any company which makes too much money.

One argument is their "capital risks" involved. It took crusty old Carl Vinson of Georgia, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, to blow this claim out of the water. He pointed out the Ways and Means Committee that it's the American taxpayers, not the private companies who "risk" capital in missile contracts. Vinson showed that in recent years both the plants and the facilities furnished to missile-makers by the government constitute up to 15 times the value of private invested capital.

The Ways and Means Committee is intent on Vinson, voted to continue the reorganization clause.

The Federal Reserve Board is worried about consumer credit and installment buying. It reports that American families are plunging into debt at an alarming rate. Americans are able to buy anything from swimming pools to vacations on the installment plan, and installment payments are now the highest in history. Overextended credit, says the Federal Reserve Board, was

one cause of the last depression. . . . The alarming lag in putting missiles in the 49th State will be televised by this writer-NBC, 6:30 p. m. EDT, this Sunday. Though Alaska is check-and-jowl with Siberia, no missiles (except short-range Nikes) have been placed in Alaska yet.

Two Ambassadors

If Democrats and Republicans on the national scene exercised the same friendliness that prevails between Robert C. Hill, Republican, present U. S. ambassador to Mexico, and William O'Dwyer, Democrat, ex-ambassador in Mexico, politics might be a more amiable profession.

The other day, Republican Hill gave a luncheon for officers of the Mexican Chambers of Commerce and the American Chamber of Commerce in Mexico. Democrat O'Dwyer, U. S. envoy from 1950 to 1953, now a partner in a Mexico City law firm, was an honored guest.