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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Livest Newspaper In The Carolinas

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BUILDING TRADES LABOR ACCORD MADE

Democrats Fight Republican Budget Cut Campaign

GOP Plan Would Fire Million From U. S. Payroll

Tax Reduction Bill Fought

WASHINGTON — (AP)— Democrats began a determined backfire today against GOP proposals to trim billions out of President Truman's budget in preparation for a 20 per cent income tax slash.

Rep. Cannon, Democrat, Missouri, former chairman of the Appropriations Committee, scoffed at assertions that 1,000,000 Government workers can be fired at a saving of $3,500,000,000 a year.

SUBSTITUTE BILL

Rep. Forand, Democrat, Rhode Island, said he will counter any attempt to vote a 20 per cent across-the-board tax reduction with a substitute bill giving most relief to the low income brackets.

And Senator Lucas, Democrat, Illionis, declared the Republican economy demands threaten the nation's military security and "the financial security of every American who has invested in Government bonds."

The wholesale cut in the number of civilian Federal employees, which now stands at 2,300,000, was proposed to the Senate-House Budget Committee yesterday by Chairman Taber, Republican, New York, of the House Appropriations group.

Chairman Knutson, Republican, Minnesota, of the House Ways & Means Committee, told reporters later it was the "general feeling" at the meeting that the pay roll could be cut to 1,300,000 without impairing Government functions. That total, he said, would still be 400,000 more Federal workers than there were in 1939.

Cannon dismissed the meeting of the budget group, a combination of committees which will fix a ceiling for Federal spending, as a "political field day" for the GOP.

He denied there was any general agreement to fire 1,000,000 persons, saying: "This situation requires study before anybody can say what we will do."

OCCUPATION PAY ROLL

Taber singled out the civilian pay roll of the occupation forces as a particular target, saying "at least 250,000" U. S. civilians are on duty among the defeated populations to "feed these people in idleness."

He said $5,000,000,000 could be pared from President Truman's $37,500,000,000 spending estimate for 1948.

Forand said in an interview he will hold up his substitute tax bill until it appears inevitable that the Republicans are going to cut taxes.

The bill would increase individual exemptions from $500 to $700, which Forand estimated would lower the annual tax load $3,000,000.

"I am confident," he said, "that many Democrats, as well as some Republicans, support this position."

Wallace Declines Bid

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia.—(AP)—Henry Wallace has informed the Ministry of Information he could not accept its invitation to visit Czechoslovakia this Summer, but that he might be able to make the trip in the Autumn of next year, it was announced today.

Many Robberies Are Solved When 2 Men Arrested

Merchandise Recovered

Police reported today the solving of a large number of robberies here and the recovery of much merchandise with the arrest of two men.

Charles Gordon, a young white man, was arrested in Forest City and was reported to have admitted breaking into several shops in the downtown area.

James Montgomery, a Negro of 330 S. Morrow St., reported to be an escapted convict, was taken into custody and linked with burglaries in several dry cleaning plants and other stores here.

A State Highway Patrolman arrested Gordon about 1:30 o'clock this morning in Forest City. Forest City Police said that Gordon was wanted there, but that he had admitted breaking into Brownlee's Jewelry Store, 108-A S. Tryon St., and the National Hat Shop, next door, last night. Money had been taken from a March of Dimes box in the hat shop. When Gordon was arrested this morning, he had in his possession some rings, watches and wrist bands which police said came from Brownlee's.

ENTERED MY SHOP

Gordon also admitted he broke into the My Shop, 219 N. Tryon St., some time ago and stole money from a March of Dimes collection box, police reported. The young man also admitted entering the National Hat Shop last week and taking about $200. City Police said he was being linked with several of the "sky-light" burglaries here of a few weeks ago, when stores were

See TWO ARRESTED on page 15-A

Wildlife & Fireworks Issues Up

South Piedmont Bill Introduced

By GERTRUDE WALTON

RALEIGH — (AP) — A wildlife measure, long anticipated as one of the hottest issues to come before the 1947 General Assembly, was thrown in the House and Senate hoppers simultaneously this week, and was referred quietly to the Committee on Conservation & Development in each body.

Calling for separation of the Division of Game & Inland Fisheries from the State Department of Conservation & Development, the proposal was expected to launch one of the most vigorous arguments of the session, but no dissension was evidenced at its introduction.

The House bill bore 70 signatures, well over the House majority of 61. The Senate bill was signed by seventeen Senators, nine below the 26 required for a State majority, but Senator Clyde C. Rodman of Beaufort, who introduced the bill claims that it has the endorsement of 27 Senators.

Duties of the Wildlife Commission created under the bill would be to regulate, restore, develop, cultivate and conserve wildlife resources in the state and to administer wildlife laws, exclusive of commercial fisheries.

Another disputed issue kept House and Senate Committees busy with bills to outlaw fireworks in the state. The Senate committee swerved away from a "safe and sane" fireworks bill that representatives of firework manufacturers proposed at a public hearing last week, and fell more in line with what anti-firework forces hoped would be enacted.

A substitute bill, for which the committee voted unanimously, bans the sale, profession, purchase and use of pyrotechnics but permits the manufacture for out-of-state sale if permission is obtained from the board of county commissioners. The House committee will not meet until next week.

SCHOOL AID

Bills for grants-in-aid to provide State funds for school building repair and construction were introduced in both branches of the Assembly Monday night. The measures, identical in purpose, were received from a recent survey by the Commission of Education, authorized by the 1945 General Assembly. The bills are designed to help the so-called poorer counties with distribution according to need and in inverse ratio to the wealth of the county.

The bills differ, in that a Senate measure provides for the allocation of $10,000,000 for the next five years, with provisions for allocations up to $15,000,000 out of the revenue surplus to be added to make a total allocation of $25,000,000, the amount recommended by the Commission. The House bill provides a flat sum of $11,000,000. One million of this sum is to be used for expansion of the school bus system.

Two proposals for drastic reductions in the fourteen-year-old State sales tax levy were voted down overwhelmingly in a joint finance committee meeting after 90 minutes of debate. One amendment, slicing the 3 per cent tax in half, with no exemptions, would have cost the State $6,756,895 in 1947 receipts. The other amendment, cutting it to 2 per cent, with no exemptions, actually would have increased annual revenue by $2,300,000, at the expense of removing exemptions on such items as fertilizer, gasoline and food.

A bill to bring co-operative and mutual marketing associations under State income and franchise tax was presented in the House. If enacted, it would supply an additional four or five million dollars annually in State revenue, according to an off-hand estimate by State Revenue Commissioner Edwin Gill. It would affect co-operative organizations sell merchandise wholesale and retail but not associations who rely on assessment of members to operate.

DISCUSSION FORESEEN

Considerable discussion is expected later on the bill introduced in the Senate which would increase drastically the penalty for drunken driving.

If the bill is enacted, the minimum sentence for drunken driving will be increased to 30 days in jail or a fine of not less than $200 or more than $1,000, and on second sentence a fine of 90 days and not less than $200 fine or not more than $2,000. License revocations would be increased in length

See WILDLIFE BILL on page 15-A

TORNADO HITS OUTSKIRTS OF MONTGOMERY, ALA. — Spectators view the wreckage of buildings destroyed by a tornado near the Army's Gunter Airfield on the outskirts of Montgomery, Ala. Fifteen persons were injured and a score of homes and other buildings were leveled. Tornadic winds in Georgia, Tennessee and other parts of Alabama the same day killed at least eight persons and injured 70. (AP Photo).

Voluntary Arbitration Of Disputes Arranged

Truman Hails Signs Of Trend

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Announcing a top-level agreement in the building trades for voluntary arbitration to avoid strikes, President Truman today reported signs of a national trend to solve labor disputes without force.

Mr. Truman reaffirmed, at a news conference his belief that "free collective bargaining" should be the country's labor policy — thereby implying opposition to harsher strike-control measures now before Congress.

COMMITTEE SET UP

The agreement covering nearly 2,000,000 AFL construction trades unionists sets up a joint National Conference Committee to settle any dispute which is voluntarily submitted to it by mutual agreement.

It was signed by the Associated General Contractors of America, for management, and by leaders of the AFL Building and Construction Trades Council.

Mr. Truman called it a "notable step along the road to industrial peace," and commented on the "good labor news" in steel and rubber within the past ten days.

The President expressed the hope that the idea behind the building trades agreement would be taken up in other industries.

Mr. Truman wrote congratulating both sides. He said:

"Now that most of the wartime controls have been removed it is appropriate that in the American tradition labor and management assume their full responsibility. You have negotiated the present plan without Government participation. The public and the Government look to you to make it work."

In a separate statement Mr. Truman called attention to recent agreements in the steel and rubber industries and said that was "good labor news." He referred to the management-labor agreement with the U. S. Steel Corp. and its subsidiaries on elimination of wage rate inequities, and postponing explanation of the existing contract with the United Steel Workers (CIO) until April 30.

Mr. Truman said the U. S. Rubber Co. and the CIO Rubber Workers also have reached an agreement "on a significant contract."

"The making of these agreements," he said, "indicates a widespread willingness to resolve industrial disputes without resort to force.

"We are moving closer and closer

See AGREEMENT on page 15-A

Legislators Get Bill

Would Raise Pay For County Jobs

A new salary scale for County Government officials, giving sizeable increases to five elective officials and upping the salary limit for two appointive officials, was set forth in a bill sent to the members of the Mecklenburg County legislative delegation this week.

The bill, drawn up by County Attorney Carol Taliaferro, sets forth the following salaries for elective officials:

Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, Sid Y. McAden, $6,500 annually. (Present salary, $5,000; proposed increase, 30 per cent.)

Clerk of Superior Court, J. Lester Wolfe, $6,250 annually. (Present salary, $5,000; proposed increase, 25 per cent.)

Mecklenburg County Sheriff, Clyde Hunter, $5,000. (Present salary, $4,250; proposed increase, 15.3 per cent.)

Register of Deeds, John R. Renfrow, $5,600. (Present salary, $4,700; proposed increase, 19.2 per cent.)

County Treasurer, Mrs. Jessie Caldwell Smith, $4,500. (Present salary, $3,600; proposed increase, 25 per cent.)

In connection with these salaries, the bill specifies that these officials shall not receive any other compensation for their work from fees or other sources, and that the salaries listed above shall be their only official compensation.

The bill also puts a new limit on salaries of two officials who are appointed by the County Commissioners:

The salary of the County Tax Supervisor, J. Arthur Henderson, shall not exceed $5,000 per year. (At present, Mr. Henderson is paid $3,200.)

The salary of the County Collector of Revenue, P. W. Davenport, also fixed by the Commissioners, shall not exceed $4,500 a year. (Present salary, $3,600.)

FAVOR INCREASE

Members of the delegation told The News this morning that they had not discussed the measure together, but most of them voiced the opinion that some salary increases are in order for County officials

See BILL TO RAISE on page 15-A

AFL Urges Union Link

MIAMI, Fla. — (AP) — Leaders of the AFL today used CIO President Philip Murray's bid for a united labor front as an opening to propose a merger of the rival labor groups.

Strategically, the AFL Executive Council, meeting here, put Murray on a spot. They said the kind of unity of action with which Murray sought to combat anti-labor forces could come only through "organic" or physical merger of the more than 13,000,000 members of the two big outfits.

Murray on Dec. 5 suggested that the CIO, the Railroad Brotherhoods and the AFL should work together to fight off unfavorable legislation in Congress and present a solid front otherwise. His plea came at a particularly gloomy time for labor, John L. Lewis' miners still were on strike and industries were being forced into idleness for lack of fuel.

GREEN WAITS

AFL President William Green withheld a reply to Murray until the Executive Council could consider it. Two years ago Murray had made a similar suggestion and Green had quickly rejected it for the same reason that "organic" unity had to come first.

Privately, members of the Council were not too hopeful that anything would come of their proposal, made in a letter from Green to Murray. But they were not saying anything which would make Murray think their offer was phony.

Murray, in Pittsburgh, declined to comment before reading the letter, which was dispatched to him at the Washington CIO headquarters.

Stand On Rent

Truman Opposes General Increase

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Opposition to a general rent increase was reiterated today by President Truman.

He also told a news conference that he would not penalize Major General Philip B. Fleming, director of the Office of Temporary Controls, for preparing an order for a flat 10 per cent raise in rents which the President killed before it could be issued.

Mr. Truman said General Fleming stated the exact truth before a Senate Committee yesterday in explaining the rent mixup of two days ago.

Fleming, he added, is one of the ablest men in the Government. Prior to preparation of the order, the President continued, Fleming did not take the matter up with him.

Mr. Truman said his own stand was the same as that expressed in a news conference last week when he called for holding the line on rents and put up to Congress the responsibility for any lifting of existing ceilings.

HARDSHIP CASES

The President also favors individual raises in rents where landlords can prove hardship.

Senator McCarthy, Republican, Wisconsin, said that Fleming's decision to order a 10 per cent increase without consulting Mr. Truman

See GENERAL RENT on page 15-A

Newspapers Suspended

PHILADELPHIA—(AP)—The Philadelphia Record Co., whose three newspapers in Philadelphia and Camden, N. J., have been strike-bound since Nov. 7 by the American Newspaper Guild (CIO) suspended publication today.

The Record said the Evening Bulletin of Philadelphia would acquire all three newspapers and radio station WCAU.

THREE PAPERS LEFT

Suspension of the Record left the nation's third largest city with three daily English language newspapers.

The Guild struck the three newspapers for higher wages and better working conditions. All three papers, however, continued publication today with executive personnel taking over editorial duties.

In a statement announcing the suspension, Publisher J. David Stern said:

"The strike against the Record by the American Newspaper Guild, involving more than 400 people, has gone on for nearly three months. It has been impossible to obtain a fair settlement which would assure this newspaper of its ability to discharge its obligation to the public.

"This is not only because of the Guild's excessive demands. Guild policy has acted to restrict the rights of management to a degree where it has become too great a burden to operate a completely independent press."

In Washington, Milton C. Murray, National President of the Guild, said suspension of the Three newspapers "represented a tragic failure of collective bargaining."

"It is tragic to the 580 courageous employees who went on strike to achieve economic goals which have been won without conflict in other cities," he said in a statement.

"It is also tragic to the citizens of Philadelphia and Camden who see . . . their newspapers engulfed in the increasing trend of American newspaper monopoly.

"Stern, in selling out his publications, can rest no blame on the American Newspaper Guild. In no other city where strikes have occurred, has it been impossible, with competent negotiators on both sides of the table, to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement."

BULLETIN STATEMENT

Today's Record carried a statement by the Bulletin company which said: "We regret to see an established newspaper suspend (publication). The Bulletin will, at the earliest date, extend its service by publishing a Sunday edition including the features of the Sunday Record. The other services ren-

See NEWSPAPERS on page 15-A

Blue Law Vote Taken

WINSTON-SALEM — Thousands of Twin City voters went to the polls today to decide whether they should be allowed to go to baseball games and movies on Sundays.

The referendum, which actually is only official but is more of a "straw vote" on the "blue law" question, has stirred up great interest here for about a month, with both pro and con leaders directing active campaigns.

Under the present ordinance, Winston-Salem has no Sunday sports or movies.

Some 22,000 citizens were eligible to vote today, and by noon a little more than 4,000 had expressed their preference, one way or the other. This was considered a "light" vote, but most of the people who had taken an active part in the campaigns were agreed that the heavy voting would come in mid-afternoon up to poll-closing time, 6 o'clock.

Bishop J. Kenneth Pfohl of the Moravian Church has been the leading voice in opposition to changing the "blue laws." The opposition was organized under the name of the Citizens' Referendum Committee. The church leaders took advertisements in the local papers to announce prayer services in all churches today.

The drive to have the "blue laws" changed to permit Sunday activities in sports and entertainment has been led by a local real estate man, Paul Minish.

The heaviest voting this morning was in the Ardmore Ward, populated mostly by white-collar workers. Some 200 persons voted there in two hours and for awhile the voting was so heavy that long lines formed.

Six members of the Board of Aldermen have pledged that they will abide by the results of the official referendum. If the majority of those voting signify that Winston-Salem ought to have games and shows during hours when church services are not being held, then these six Aldermen, according to their pledges, will change the ordinance. The other two members of the eight-man Board made no such pledge. They made no comment on the question.

Hot Fighting In Indo-China

MANILA —(AP)— Radio Hanoi in a broadcast heard here today reported that fierce fighting was going on between French forces attempting to relieve their besieged garrisons at Hue and Viet Nam troops surrounding the city. Hue is the capital of Annam province in Indo China.

The radio is operated by the Viet Namese resistance committee. The broadcast, recorded by the Associated Press, said French troops in Laos, which borders Annam Province, were making "tremendous effort" to enter Viet Nam territory.

Devers To Inspect Tests In Alaska

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Seven high ranking Army officials, including Gen. Jacob L. Devers, Army Ground Forces commander, leave Fort Monroe, Va., today to inspect the Army's Arctic tests in Alaska.

With Devers are Major General John L. Hoyt, commander of the anti-aircraft and guided missiles center at Fort Bliss, Tex.; Maj. Gen. Elwood R. Quesada, chief of the Tactical Air Command at Langley Field, Va.; Brig. Gen. George W. Smythe, chief of operations for ground forces; Brig. Gen. Reuben E. Jenkins of Fort Benning, Ga., Col. Guy O. Kurtz of Fort Bragg, N. C., and Col. George W. Read of Fort Knox, Ky., all of the ground forces.

Police Search For Three Bandits

Man Reports He Was Robbed By Trio And Threatened With Death

Police were searching the County today for three young men who took Frank C. Bumgardner, 61-year-old cattle dealer of Lincolnton, onto a lonely country road last night, where they robbed him of between $90 and $100 after threatening to slash his throat with a knife.

Mr. Bumgardner told Rural Police that the robbery occurred between 9 and 11 o'clock last night and that it took him until around 3 A. M. to find his way back to Charlotte.

An immediate alarm was broadcast over the police radio network, but this afternoon, no trace had been found of the trio.

Mr. Bumgardner said he came here on business and was standing at the corner of Brevard and Trade Sts. when a young man, neatly dressed, approached and asked if he was looking for a hotel room.

"When I said I was not, he wanted to know if the type of business in which I was engaged and I told him I was in the cattle business," Mr. Bumgardner said, he said.

The stranger, according to police, said he had a cow that he would like for Bumgardner to see and led him to an automobile occupied by two other men.

They drove a considerable distance into the country, Mr. Bumgardner said, and the car came to a stop on the little-traveled road near a patch of woods.

When the car stopped one of the men on the rear seat suddenly grabbed him around the head and pulled it back while the driver took the money, "my keys and everything else in my pockets," Mr. Bumgardner told the authorities.

About this time the other occupant of the rear seat jumped out of the automobile and jerked Bumgardner from the car and said, "Let's cut his damn head off." Bumgardner said he pleaded with the men not to do him bodily harm and that they departed.

LOST

He explained that he knew nothing about Mecklenburg County and therefore had no idea where he was when the automobile left. He said he awakened several persons trying to find his way back to Charlotte and that it was around 3 A. M. before he was able to reach Police Headquarters.

He was unable to give police sufficient detail for them to accurately determine in which part of the county the robbery occurred. He was, however, able to supply a description of some of the men.

Financial Adventure

Boy Thieves Spend $2,700 In 4 Hours

WAUKEGAN, Ill. —(AP)— Three boys, 11, 12 and 13 years old, went on a spending and cash-for-free goose yesterday but the approximately $2,700 they got rid of in four hours belonged to somebody else.

The money that the youngsters spent—for rifles and an automobile—and gave away to other youngsters before police caught up with them belonged to Mat Susman, 36, a linoleum shop owner.

Police Sgt. Clarence Huff said Susman last night reported $4,000—in $10, $20, $50 and $100 bills—had been stolen from his money box in his home some time between last Saturday and Wednesday. Huff said Susman delayed reporting the theft until last night.

In the meantime the three boys, one of whom Huff said had stolen the money and concealed it in a garage, started on their financial adventure yesterday. They gave away more than $100 to schoolmates and made a round of stores purchasing various articles, including three rifles at $20 each.

One boy decided to buy an automobile, Huff said. Three teenage boys in a car came to terms with the boys, Huff related, and the driver of the car was given $600 as a down payment. To prove their good will, Huff said, the boys handed over a roll of bills which might have contained nearly $2,000, to the three youths, Huff said. search was being made for them.

Police finally caught up with the boys when the car stalled in a snowbank. They said no charges have been placed against them pending further efforts to recover the rest of Susman's currency.

June Lockhart To Wed Ex-Army Fighter Pilot

HOLLYWOOD —(AP)— A wartime correspondence developed into romance for actress June Lockhart, 21-year-old daughter of Actor Gene Lockhart, and William Warrick, former Army fighter pilot of New Rochelle, N. Y.

She announced their engagement, saying they had written to each other before they met. They plan to be married a year from now when Warrick is graduated from Dartmouth University.

WEATHER

Clear and colder tonight and tomorrow. Lowest temperature tonight about 32 degrees.

Temperature at 2:30 today..... 61
High and low last 24 hours..... 61-42
Sunset today 5:46
Sunrise tomorrow 7:21