TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 1947

# Battleground Of The Public Mind

THE fulsome debate on the anti-closed ahop bill prodded the long memory of Tom Bost, The Greensboro Delly News' Raleigh Correspondent, and took him back some 25 years to the Administration of Governor Bickett. That also was a season when public feeling was rising against the unions, and the Governor had campaigned as, and in fact was, a triend of labor. He was drawn into a controversy growing out of a printer's strike in Raleigh, and finally, after he had retired from office in 1921, made a public statement in which he said:

wande a public sjatement in winch ne saut If I were the enemy of organized labor, as I am its devoted friend, I should counsel it to pursue the course it is now pursuing. I would ingratiate myself with it and encourage it to follow its present course. I found in the counse is not to be a country of the course of the country of the countr

Use it.

Organized labor, then as now, might have pointed to its record and argued that, by and large, it has not abused its power. It could make out an impressive case, then as now, to show that its abuses have been magnified, if not multiplied, by labor's enemies. It could, then as now, insist that the unions are the victims of an intensive and well-financed propaganda campaign.

And there is fustice in that argument.

wen-tinanced propaganda campaign.
And there is justice in that argument.
But the question before organized labor is
not one of abstract justice. Governor Bickett spoke as a bractical politician, pointing
out where aim why labor is most vulnerable. And, of course, the fact that labor has
so many unscruptious enemies only serves
to increase its vulnerability.

to increase its vulnerability.

In the public mind the millions of peaceful man-hours worked by union men during the war have already been cancelled out by John Lewis' defiance of the Government. This is unfair, of course, but it is not entirely unreasonable. In a day of in-

educty-wide bargaining, a single union leader may hold the power to seriously harm the public interest. A hundred union bosses may accept this heavy responsibility in good spirit, but if one ignores it—as Lewis did—labor's enemies (and some of its friends) can argue that the system that, grants such power is dangerous.

This is the reason the anti-closed shop bill passed the flouse in the manner it did. The arguments used to support it had, for the most part, little to do with the self-evident fact of sound and orderly labor relations in North Carolina. Extrainly it was absurd to hold up John Lewis' coal atrike as a reason for passing a restrictive law in a state that has no coal mines. Labor could argue that the anti-closed shop bill in North Carolina, its unnecessary, and we would agree. But this is a logical argument, and the measure, like all labor bills in this season, had become part of an emptional issue.

This is why Governor Bickett's speech is

This is why Governor Bickett's speech is as applicable today as it was a quarter of a century ago. Labor leaders may cry persecution, but they must recognize that their great threat comes not from their avowed enemies, but from the public's state of mind. The hard fact is that the general public now views the unions with suspicion and something approaching fear. From labor's own point of view it doesn't matter whether this attitude is right or wrong, spontaneous or induced. Perhaps it can be altered only by a change in the economic weather, followed, as it always is, by a change in the political climate. In the meantime labor cannot join battle directly with its true enemies, but must seek occurrent their unformation must seek occurrent their unforted that of the public and the property of the continuing demonstration of labor responsibility, undertaken with the understanding that every misstep will count ten in the tally against the unions. This is why Governor Bickett's speech is as applicable today as it was a quarter of

### Rend, Amend And Recommit

THE Institute of Government, indulging In the popular Ralejsh sport of com-paring the progress of the current Legis-lature with past performances, has de-cided that its prior prediction of adjourn-ment on April 16 is "a little on the optimis-tic side". An unusual amount of contro-versy is the cause of the lag, and part of it stems naturally enough from the fact that a great deal of highly controversial legisla-tion has been introduced this year. And, tion has been introduced this year. And, as the Institute notes, the Legislature contains 'an unusual number of members who seem primed to tear into almost every measure, no matter how apparently innocuous it may be, and rend, amend, postpone, recommit or otherwise handle it in such manner as to impede its progress."

such manner as to impede its progress."

Some of this rending, amening, tearing, etc., may be no more than simple and indefensible obstruction, but we regard it as an extremely healthy sign. For there seems to be an unusual number of adeepers highing the highpers this year, measures that appear innocent enough on the surface but are actually designed to gain a special advantage for a special interest. Off-hand, we think of these:

The bill that would have established a board of undertakers to regulate the undertaking business and guarantee present practitioners against competition. (Now interred, and resting in peace.)

The bill that would make it a misdemeanor for a law enforcement officer to use under-cover methods to trap a bod-legger, i. e., to purchase illiel liquor, without identifying himself as an arm of the law.

The bill that would make it unlawful for a tenant to move off a farm while owing his landlord money, a measure that would legalize peonage in North Carolina.

The bill that would remove the requirement that parties to a divorce action sign

ment that parties to a divorce action sign an oath attesting that they have not en-

ment that parties to a divorce action sign an oath attenting that they have not entered into collusion. The bill that would abolish the present requirement that all lobbytsts register with the General Assembly.

Not all of these measures are dead by any means. Some may yet be enacted into law, but none will silde through the Legislature unnoticed and undiscussed. The rending and amending process has brought them to public attention, delayed them, and allowed their opponents to rally their forces in opposition.

Controversy, as The Institute conceders, if helpful in arriving at a fair balance of interests." This, it seems to us, ins far more important than the speedy adjournment the absence of controversy would permit. We hope the unusual n um be r of eagle-syed members will remain primed from now until the end of the session—whenever that may be.

#### Grass Roots In Guilford

A LTHOUGH the Legislature has appar-ATHOUGH the Legislature has apparently abandoned serious consideration
of the South Piedmont schedule of teachers salaries, the gentlemen in Raleigh are
still wrestling with the problem it is supposed to solve. And theirs, as we have
noted before, is a difficult task, if they so
crease recommended by the Budget Commission they face a clear choice between
curtailment of other services and additional taxes. The prevailing attitude in Raleigh
might be summed up as one of genuine might be summed up as one of genuine sympathy for the teachers coupled with an equally genuine doubt that the people will stand for any increase in their tax burden.

equally genuine count: that whe people was atland for any increase in their tax burden.

The straw poll on teachers' salaries conducted by The High. Point Enterprise therefore has a special significance at this juncture. And the results of the poll are truly amazing. The newspaper explored south redomnts schedule, by increasing the school appropriation by some \$18,000-000, might strain the budget beyond its present capacity, and then put the question to its readers in the form of an editorial page ballot. Some \$4.847 persons (almost twice as many as voted in the last Democratic primary in High Point) took the typoble for life uit the blank, sign it, clip it, and 'mail it. And of these, 4,737 voted for minimum salaries ranging from \$1.560 to \$3,000 for "A" certificate holders (the South Piedmont scale). Only 61 votes were recorded against the scale, and The Enterprise says it counted every one that in-

coorded against the scale, and The Enter-rise says it counted every one that in-juided any reservation as negative. The ther 49 ballots were rejected because they were unsigned, or for other reasons. No straw poll, of course, can be regarded, as conclusive. And, even though The Enter-rize believes the vote represents "as good , cross-section of public opinion as has were been acquired in High Folint', it still is a small sample, of "public opinion in forth Carolina as whole. There is a pos-bility that a similar poll in a predomi-stely rural area, for instance, would show n opposite result.

Nevertheless, the vofe seems to us hishly significant. No Legislator, even one from Guilford, could properly regard it as a mandate. But, 50 Legislator, it seems to us, can afford if isonor its clear implication—that the people are deeply concerned, over the degeneration of the public school system, believe that higher salaries for teachers are necessary, and are even willing to sacrifice to make them possible.

sacrifice to make them possion.

Whether the h-people of North -Carolina would support the South Piedmont scale in its entirety, we don't know. But we do believe that, for once, the rank and file voter is out in front of his Representative in his willingness to increase public expenditures. Legislators are usually adept at sounding out sentiment among their constituents; The Enderpites's pol, indicates that it is high time to place an ear against the ground in every county of the state.

In Yugoslavia a ban is pronounced on boogle-woogle, trucking, the Carloca, the Conga and Big Apple. This repeals about everything back to the stately Charleston.

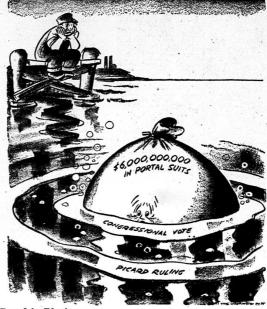
"If," a commentator asks, "the Attlee Government resigns because of the fuel crisis, who is there to take its place?" And as one man the primary class in punning answers, "A coalition."

Conant of Harvard says "education is contagious." We supposed it was a teacher shortage that was closing the school-houses.

Now that Morgenthau has offered to give the 900-volume diary back, we've forgotten what it was we wanted to look up.

The iron-handed Tito cracks down on all fortune-telling; but is this the smart procedure? Hitler let the astrologers read the stars, after he rearranged them.

'Oh, My Darling Clementine'



People's Platform

# Whose Fault Is It?

does not have enough to buy a bottle of whisky but some polsonius concertion so they can make more money.

When it it when one of these law breakers and which it is the most of the some polsonius of the control of th

won't do so then it's up to the citizens that want a clean city to get busy and do something. Let us get busy.

get busy.

—D. G. BOONE.

P. S. I forgot to tell you I know both sides of
the question. One of the finest men I ever knew is a
retired police officer, a Christian man that did more
good for mankind than all our fine and efficient jails.

#### Keep Moving

Editors. THE News:

MY home is not in Charlotte, but I am a frequent
Visitor, and I certainly agree with Mr. Marks
about the bus situation and the waiting on sidewaits. I dread a visit to Charlotte because of people
family reunion or waiting on the busses. Let's keep
them moving.

Editors, The News:

I AM coming to you as my source of information for 1 can't get the answer. I should judge from what I read, if there is another war, it will be fought on would be of no success and our present weapons would be of no success and our present weapons will that is so, why are we training large armies to use the same equipment of the last war? Perhaps the answer is we are not. L just don't know. You are always ready to help.

are always ready to help.

—ROSE BLANTON.

(NOTE: Ready, but not always able. Would any readers care to have a try at answering Miss Blanton's \$64 guestion?—Eds., The News).

The People's Platform is available to any reader who cares to mount it. Communications should be less than 300 words, typewritien it possible, and on only one side of the paper. Libel and obscently will be deleted—otherwise anything goes. Each letter must be signed, although, in exceptional cases and upon reaching we will withhold the writer's name.—Editors. Tux News.

### Senator Soaper Says:

 $R^{ ext{EJECTION}}$  by Los Angeles cops of a murder confession doesn't necessarily imply a lack of literary merit. Maybe it just didn't happen that way.

There is talk lately in New York of building a bus terminal, and a town that big could probably support road shows.

"My latest speech has been roundly denounced by Pravda," sighed the world diplomat, happily. "For a while there, I feared it had missed fire."

#### Marquis Childs

# Marshall's Legacy

WASHINGTON
W Secretary of State never
ins with a clean blackboard,
ord has been written by his
soors and he must accept
bord for what it is.

at record for what it is.

As Secretary of State George C.

tarshall leaves for Moscow, in his

telcase he takes with him not

erely the present but the past.

mmitments have been made.

clicly has been staked out. Gen.

arshall will constantly find him
ff pulled up short by the long rope

the past.

Secretary Manhall, will doubties descover the reason in Maccow. A discover the reason in Maccow and the Soviet note giving the Kremlin Indicated many have a bearing on the Soviet note giving the Kremlin Indicated many and the State James P. Byrnes was in Paris last Summer, he had a long show the State James P. Byrnes was in Paris last Summer, he had a long show the Maccow on t

NAVY'S CONTRIBUTION

## Samuel Grafton

# Life By A Thread

THERE CAN BE little real understanding in America of his process of the contains a thread little hanse by in the contains a contain a conta

# Drew Pearson's: Cooley Lands Job For Brother-In-Law

PEPRESENTATIVE Harold Cooley of North Carolina takes great pride in his past efforts to houselean the old Farm Security Administration of "Reds." More recently the old Farm Security Administration of "Reds." More recently the Agriculture Department's crop loan functions into what now is called the Farmers Home Administration.

However, while Congressian Cooley is always ready while Congressian Cooley is always ready considered to the Congressian Cooley is always ready while constituents about some interesting sleight-of-hand whereby he "streamlined" a relative into a cushy lob.

Interest of the Congressian Cooley is always ready while Congressian Section but Cooley's very own brother-in-law, Bruce J. Downey.

Interesting the Congressian Cooley is taking no chances that the work of the Cooley of the Cool

**Baptist Truman** 

The President added that while God-fearing people present for "peace and human understanding." It was stip necessary to maintain military protection measures until the world was ready to "accept the philosophy you missionaries preach."

Senator Taft Forgot

Senator I full Forgot

Senators Bost TAFF of Onio tangled with soft-spoken,

Speristent President Phil Murray of the Clo at a Senate
Labor Committee hearing the other day with some interesting
resultant fireworks.

Murray, who is head of the United Steelworkers Union,
had told the committee that there has been no important
strike in the steel industry since 1985—the famous Little
strike in the steel industry since 1985—the famous Little
dered fire the properties of the steel industry and the steel industry and the steel industry into the steel industry and the steel industry in the steel industry

dered for trying to establish the right to belong to their union."

The work of the responsible to both sides, Mr. Murray?" counterwish Sensite roughly.

Murray in reply referred to the Supreme Court finding on the case which held that the Republic Steel Co., in discharging 5,000 men, had violated the Wagner Acts: in the Again Tath prepared to defend the counterpart of the worst outbreaks of violence in Twentieth Century labor history. This was too much for Murray. Half rising from his chair, he shook his finger at the sausy Sensite from Ohlo. That went on to another question.

Tatt went on to another question.

A few minutes later Murray was reminding Sensions about house minutes hister Murray was reminding Sensions about house minutes later Murray was reminding Sensions. A few minutes later Murray was reminding Sensions about house mountain professional counterpart of the counterpart of the formation of the counterpart of the counterpart of the formation of the counterpart of the coun

Rankin Suffocates

The rushing breeze of publicity, or notoriety, were the very breath of life to John.

"Now that the Republicans have taken over. John is no longer up from the life to John.

"As John state back there, make to create a wind or complete the complete to the stationards almost under the life of th

Navy's Paint

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