

Debt Limitation Amendment

FOR amendment removing debt limitation upon the State, Counties, and municipalities for necessary expenses. OR AGAINST amendment removing debt limitation upon the State, Counties, and municipalities for necessary expenses.

THE brief wording of the above amendment of the problem which can be easily understood, which will go before the voters on Tuesday, does not begin to give a complete picture of the question involved. Even when reduced to its simplest terms, the question of a debt limit is a rather complicated one, understood in all its finer points by a relatively small number of people in this state.

However, there are several broad phases of the problem which can be easily understood, and on the basis of which the voters will be able to make up their minds. North Carolina has tried various plans in the past to limit public indebtedness. They have failed, and the state is now in a financial straits. On January 1, 1938, some 135 cities and towns, 45 counties, and 75 other local units were in default on their obligations, and bonded debts in some instances had reached 90 per cent of taxable values.

To remedy that situation, the voters approved in 1938 the present debt limitation provision which prohibits the State Government or any local government from

contracting debts in any one fiscal period greater than two-thirds the indebtedness retired in the previous fiscal period, except by a vote of the people. Simultaneously, the Legislature created the Local Government Commission and gave it definite powers over local bond issues and other questions of local government finance.

This limitation was a creature of the depression, and had salutary effect in bringing public finances into balance in this state. But there are several good reasons why it has outlived its usefulness, and why some other system should be substituted. (1) The time has come when the State has either paid up its debts, or has set aside money to do so. Thus the State cannot borrow any money or contract any debt, except for limited purposes, and which it will not be retiring any debt the previous fiscal period. This might cause a critical situation if, at any time, revenue failed to come up to expectations.

(2) The Local Government Commission will be an adequate check on over-enthusiastic county and municipal officials, and will protect the taxpayers against contracting excessive indebtedness. (3) The present law discriminates against the local government unit which is in sound financial condition. The city or county which owes absolutely no money cannot issue one penny of bonds; the unit which has a big outstanding debt, however, can keep on issuing up to two-thirds of the amount retired the previous year.

For these reasons, and others, the proposed amendment deserves the support of North Carolina voters on Tuesday.

School Commission Report—III

This is the third in a series of editorials on the State Education Report.

The General Assembly shall provide by legislation and otherwise for a general and uniform system of public schools in this state which shall be free of charge to all the children of the state between the ages of six and twenty-one years.—North Carolina Constitution.

HAPPILY, all eighteen members of the State Education Commission (which recently finished a distinguished study of North Carolina's school needs) agree on the critical nature of the state school problem.

Although they differ fundamentally in their philosophy of how an enriched program should be administered, there is an agreement among the members that North Carolina can comfortably afford to do more than has been doing.

As The News pointed out last week, the controversy is between those groups who advocate a sweeping reorganization of the school system and those who believe the needs can be met through the old system.

It might be well to set aside consideration of this difference for a moment and refer to the needs of the state. These eighteen North Carolinians that their state education system faces a serious crisis. To make the point more convincingly, this review will be confined to the Commission's report on school plants, a division where need for improvement is most pressing.

The Commission found that North Carolina made considerable progress with its school building and consolidation program in the 1920's and again in the 1930's. The second World War halted the second phase of the construction program, and war's end found the physical set-up of our schools almost antiquated and outmoded as the salaries they offered their personnel.

The most striking evidence unearthed by the Commission's minute study was the obvious inequality in the facilities offered in the wealthier counties and those offered by the economically less fortunate. Here is one description of that difference: "On the one hand children are sitting down to a meal in a room with 25 seconds a room, warmed by a displaced iron stove, under a leaking roof, with no artificial light, and no playground space. On the

other hand, children are attending schools which are heated by concealed radiation thermostatically controlled and which have well ventilated classrooms, heating equipment, sanitary toilet facilities and ample playground space."

More than the actual physical inequality, the Commission found that better teachers are naturally attracted to the better schools, thus making the children of the poorer counties even more disadvantaged. This led the Commission to the following significant conclusion: "The philosophy of education in North Carolina is based on equal opportunity for all the children of the state, but under the present system the children of the poorer counties (and debt service) there is no equality of opportunity. The wide variation in the ability of the 100 counties to finance suitable facilities constitutes a major school building problem in North Carolina."

The Commission estimates it will require approximately \$150,000,000 to provide the additional school facilities now urgently needed and to renovate and modernize existing school plants.

And it also found that because of such things as inflated building costs, increased war-time birthrate and other pressing obligations, most counties are pitifully unprepared to launch an even half-way adequate building program. For instance, voted bonds in the amount of \$6,000,000 for building purposes but the county now finds it will need more than \$10,000,000. Less wealthy counties can't begin to meet the very real demands on their treasuries.

The Commission therefore surmised that "the only solution to the school building problem is immediate and substantial aid from the state. This aid should be made available to the county and its ability to finance its building program."

This conclusion then led directly into the controversy over how best such a joint project might be executed, with eleven members favoring the foundation and revised equalization system and seven opposed to a major restuffing of state and local responsibility for the building program.

The 1949 Legislature thus faces a momentous decision if it intends to give serious consideration to the Commission's di-rect recommendations. Must it decide how much sacrifice a people of North Carolina think they can afford for their children.

Radar In The Kitchen

HERE'S a Navy secret for you: Seagoing cooks will soon have a device that will cook a roast in ten seconds, a turkey in ten seconds. Agents uncovered this startling fact at the Navy Supply School in Bayonne, N. J., where the seagoaks are experimenting with a radar device that can cook a roast in ten seconds, a turkey in ten seconds, or bake a potato in 90 seconds or a pork chop, frozen solid, in the same time. The radar oven, called in the manner of modern semantics "Raytheon", has been kicking around in the mind of supermo- dern experts for some time. Now the Navy is practical if the device can be used in seagoing cooking.

It works simply. A tube in the back of the oven is connected to a radio frequency radio waves of a log, the piney smell in the corner of the kitchen where the firewood is stored, the woodshed itself where The Old Man deals out justice, the black iron kettle hanging over the fire—sending up billowing clouds of steam.

It seems another case of science marching on. It has its disadvantages, however. Whither the wood stove? What of the clumsy, smoky, and smelly monster that crouched in the corner of the spacious farmhouse kitchen, warming the entire rear of the house? What of the unforgettable odor of onion and eggs and frying apples and bubbling coffee that steamed up from that old stove? Gone, all gone.

The American traditions that will depart with radar cooking will be numerous. By-products of the wood stove alone will be sorely missed: the crisp winter mornings when the sun is shining and the snow is on a log, the piney smell in the corner of the kitchen where the firewood is stored, the woodshed itself where The Old Man deals out justice, the black iron kettle hanging over the fire—sending up billowing clouds of steam.

Progress can't be stopped. Shouldn't be stopped. But, ah! The good old days!



Mr. Burkholder Returns To Fray

CHARLOTTE

MR. BURKHOLDER returns up his resignation from the Republican Party in five points which he claims are not valid. First, he claims that he was not induced to give up a good job and run for Congress while at work, when there was no thought in my mind of running for any public office. Mr. Prasser came to me and asked me, "How about you running for one of our public offices?" I said, "What you got?" He said, "Anything from Congress down." He suggested that I run for a State office. I definitely told him I would not accept anything less than Congress. After discussing and considering a second invitation and speech, I seriously considered running for Congress. I called him later and said if he wanted to put my name on the list for Congress, he would have to say, "K. K. your hat is in the ring" whereupon he announced through the press that I was a candidate for Congress.

Predicts Truman Defeat

CHARLOTTE

CONGRATULATIONS to your editorial support of the Dewey-Warren Presidential ticket. I read the brief note from Kay Oweley Glass in the Oct. 25 People's Platform quoting a dispatch from Charles Francis Adams to Earl Russell. Seems he had acquired the common trait of our present executive and part of the administrative branch of our Government—my apologies to Webster for using this word to describe it; and that is using the "brains" of their predecessors. Unfortunately, as in this case, they are not always applicable. There is no "war." Ex-President Truman is showing his desperation in every speech. Perhaps he will enjoy making a fifteen-page paper to a half-dozen departments at Washington as to how many neckties, socks, hats and tax reports. Fortunately, as in this case, they are not always applicable. There is no "war." Ex-President Truman is showing his desperation in every speech. Perhaps he will enjoy making a fifteen-page paper to a half-dozen departments at Washington as to how many neckties, socks, hats and tax reports.

JAMES C. TAYLOR Jr. "Deweyites."

Roy A. Harmon For Congress

MATTHEWS

THE People's Platform is a Republican and a Republican Congress in Washington next January. If the Democrats will explain to the voters why it is that they are so opposed to the Republican Party, I would appreciate it. A Republican Congressman from the district can best represent our interests. Roy A. Harmon is a man who is capable and one whom we can be proud of. If anyone will explain the character and background of both candidates, Mr. Jones would suffer in the comparison. I extend a very cordial invitation to all of my friends and especially the veterans, to join me at the polls next Tuesday to cast a vote for Roy A. Harmon.

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Quote, Unquote

There'll come a day when these present legislators stepping along with skirts flopping around their ankles, five days before Lamont will be at the family album. "Mother, you really didn't look like that, did you?"—Kingsport (Tenn.) Times.

Drew Pearson's Contributions Reveal Campaign Big-Views

EN ROUTE through the West all you have to see is a picture of your backing whom in this campaign is to read the list of campaign contributors to the Republican and Democratic parties. This is not quite as easy as it seems since you have to be careful to look up the contributors not only to the Republican Party but to the Democratic Party, Congressional Committees and to a host of state GOP committees. There were organized to diversify campaign contributions and get around the Hatch Act. On the Democratic side, the really big money is coming from the South. It is estimated that the Democratic Party is spending the money through its own separately organized committees. Also significant is the fact that the biggest GOP contributors—the Du Ponts of Delaware, the Pews of Pennsylvania, the Rockefellers of New York, and the Harrises of Ohio—were not into Dewey's campaign, but into the Senatorial race. They regard Dewey as good as elected.

Under the Hatch Act no one can contribute more than \$100 to get his name on the list of contributors of a family or between different committees of the same political party. The Hatch Act is held up to be violated. The Republican National Committee on July 8 he gave \$2,000 to the GOP Senatorial Committee on July 8 he gave \$2,000 to the GOP National Committee. This was on June 9. On June 11, he gave \$1,000 to the Republican Committee. While Irene du Pont Jr. and her father and I. Sophie du Pont may give \$2,000 each to the GOP Senatorial Committee on July 30, they also gave \$2,000 each to the Republican National Committee on July 8. On July 14, the same three du Ponts gave \$1,000 to the GOP Senatorial Committee. On July 30, they gave \$1,000 to the GOP Senatorial Committee. On Aug. 18, Pierre and gave \$2,000 to the GOP National Committee.

It's these gifts of the "old" committees which really tell the story of the campaign money comes from. NOTE—Three significant contributions appearing on the GOP National Committee list are for \$1,000 each from Albert B. Wells, George B. Wells and Mrs. George Wells. The Wells family own the American Optical Co. of Southbridge, which produces eyeglasses under laws by the Justice Department under a Democratic Administration. Under earlier Republican rule, the Justice Department didn't get too busy with anti-trust suits. really truly in style. The other day Pa Howell, owner of the Southern Pacific Hotel in Carrizosa, New Mexico, was a little surprised to receive a wire from Hurley reserving ten rooms for a three-day stay. The telegram stated that he and Mrs. Hurley would need four rooms for a second stay. The telegram asked for telegraphic confirmation. Pa Howell does not run a big hotel and he wondered why Pat Hurley would want to bring such a big retinue to a town of only 200 people. He had a long drive to Carrizosa, a couple of traveling salesmen, even though they were regulars and Carrizosa Hotel the best rooms would be ready. However, the train arrived in Carrizosa, the ex-Ambassador did not stay at the Southern Pacific Hotel. His party stayed at Petty's Court on the edge of town. Pa Howell was a bit surprised at this and phoned Hurley. "In fact, I've kicked out some people to have room ready. You are entirely mistaken," boomed Hurley. "At no time did I ever ask you to reserve any rooms for me." But he kept on saying that he had reserved the room. When Hurley told the town's 200 people had gathered to hear him, Pa Howell got a little more surprised. He said he had reserved the room. He merely read Hurley's telegram to him and he was at the hotel rooms, his reply to Hurley, and a wire to Carrizosa clinching the reservation. However, the hotel reservations straight. Pa Howell told the crowd of New Mexicans, "I don't see how he can keep straight the problems of New Mexico in the Senate."

Pat Hurley Campaign

Pat Hurley, ex-Ambassador to China, travels through New Mexico campaigning for the Senate, he