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ANOTHER NUISANCE TAX

THE poll tax, as we know it in North Carolina, has largely outlived its usefulness, and is more of an annoyance to the taxpayer than a boon to the public treasury.

News Reporter Ralph Gibson looked into the records recently, and his report contained ample proof that there is little justification for keeping the poll tax on the books these days.

There are at least four good reasons why the poll tax should be completely abolished.

1. It is not a poll tax. The law directs that the tax be levied as a prerequisite to voting, but long ago this State abandoned the requirement that a poll tax receipt must be shown before a person could vote.

2. It is discriminatory. This tax applies to males between 21 and 50 years of age. It does not apply to women, probably because it was originally adopted long before woman suffrage.

3. It cannot be enforced. You can vote in Mecklenburg County for a life time without paying the tax, if you don't own

real property or purchase an automobile. Once you buy a piece of land or an automobile, the tax collectors catch up with you and bill you for the poll tax also.

4. It is a petty tax. Mecklenburg County, which charges \$2, will receive some \$40,000 from the poll tax this year, which means that some 20,000 adult males will be trapped under the rest for free. The city of Charlotte charges \$1, and will get between \$15,000 and \$20,000 this year, indicating a similar lack of complete enforcement.

The question is wrapped up in one issue of "baiting points." Already it has touched off fireworks in a Congressional inquiry the past week. It brought a Supreme Court decision. It raised the possibility of another Big-Business-Little-Business fight.

Even if the poll tax could be universally applied and completely enforced, there is no reason to believe that it has any origin in the American principle that only those financially well off should have the right to vote in the nation's affairs.

A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM

WHAT is an alcoholic? Tom Feperman's articles yesterday and today tell you as much as can be told about them: they are sick, mentally and physically; they can no more escape alcohol than you can escape breathing.

Alcoholism is a major public health problem. A public health problem calls for public action. The public has helped in medicine's long fight against such diseases as tuberculosis and cancer, it has gone a long way in accepting the challenge of the once unmentionable venereal diseases; but these ailments are obvious. When a relative dies because of TB you know it, when Babe Ruth died of cancer you know it.

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But many children in North Carolina orphanages and many families supported by the County bear testimony to alcoholism as a widespread and deadly disease. It is a problem to which the General Assembly of North Carolina should give serious attention when it meets in January; that body should sponsor an exhaustive investigation of alcoholism. We are certain cases of alcoholism are being investigated by the State Government, but many drys will argue that this effort would be of little value.

AMERICA'S SILENT GUESTS

"In the little world in which children have their existence... there is nothing so finely perceived and so finely felt as injustice..." -Charles Dickens

The slogan-ridden, politicized, high-pressure American people firmly disregarded what the percentage-takers said they were supposed to do Nov. 2 and 3 for better or worse.

This astounding political upset, among all the other things it did, lent encouragement to a former movie starlet, twice bedeviled by tuberculosis and now engaged in an unusual campaign to make the American people aware of their date with destiny.

What Miss Gabriel asks is rather simple. She asks the American people for the second year running, to set an extra place at their Thanksgiving Day table for one of the 230,000 hungry children. By collecting the price of their meals, Miss Gabriel asks the people to raise \$1,000,000 for destitute children between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Seventy-five per cent of the money will be turned over to the United Nations Agency for children in Europe and 25 per cent will go to needy youngsters in the United States.

Golden-haired Miss Gabriel, still vividly impressed by what she saw on a three-months tour of Europe this Spring, believes she can raise a million—if her personalized appeal to the hearts and minds of the people. Some people have discouraged her. The job isn't terribly big,

an alcoholic, while there are others who cannot recognize even the most advanced alcoholism. This center could disseminate information to all as to the Mecklenburg County Tuberculosis and Health Association has done in fighting TB.

A clinic in Charlotte is vitally needed as a means of giving alcoholics physical treatment in acute stages and as a means of conducting the long-term treatment which may enter the field of psychiatry. Until such a clinic can be established special hospital facilities should be arranged to fill these needs.

Civic clubs and social organizations can be of immense value in the campaign against alcoholism. As the Lions Clubs of this state work toward helping the blind and finally assume active participation by the State Government, so other groups can prepare the way for city, county and state programs.

Many drys will argue that this effort would be of little value. It is a problem to which the General Assembly of North Carolina should give serious attention when it meets in January; that body should sponsor an exhaustive investigation of alcoholism. We are certain cases of alcoholism are being investigated by the State Government, but many drys will argue that this effort would be of little value.

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An Important Issue For The 81st Congress The Basing Point Question

WASHINGTON (A Summary by Congressional Quarterly)

Will family food costs go up or down if the neighborhood market pays the full freight costs on the groceries it puts on its shelves? It is a problem heading for action of the 81st Congress.

The question is wrapped up in one issue of "baiting points." Already it has touched off fireworks in a Congressional inquiry the past week. It brought a Supreme Court decision. It raised the possibility of another Big-Business-Little-Business fight.

Sen. Wright Patman (D-Tex.) anti-trust law author who is due to become House Small Business chairman in the 81st Congress, and Sen. Homer Capehart (R-Ind.) tonight over methods of Capehart's committee investigating the need for new freight cost legislation. Patman charged Capehart was prejudicially favoring the Supreme Court decision affecting baiting points and that anyone who was for Small Business would be for the devil.

Sen. Capehart said Congress can do the job without weakening the nation's anti-trust laws by permitting the people of America to pay the full freight rates any time they want to, either sporadically or systematically, so long as no conspiracy or collusion is involved.

Here, the housewife comes into the picture. Although cement and steel firms are the only ones who have taken immediate action to adjust to the Supreme Court decision, every manufacturer who absorbs freight costs in putting his product on sale in widely scattered markets at a standard price may be affected. This involves hundreds of products, from radium to candy bars.

What a housewife's sugar cost her more or cost her less in Western beet sugar growers are not permitted to pay part of the freight cost to the East? If manufacturers of shipping freight costs to equalize prices will the cost to the consumer go up or down?

Those backing the FTC stand say freight cost absorption tends to operate in a vicious circle. Prices up, while foot padding reduces the chance of monopolistic practice. Opponents calling for legislation to clarify basing points say freight cost absorbing over the past 25 years has widely extended markets and brought prices down.

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People's Platform

Liquor Traffic

Editors The News: I read Saturday's News that the City and County Police are going to rigidly enforce the 1917 State law outlawing fireworks. I think it is a good law and should be enforced.

There are other laws—some of them good and some of them not so good—which also should be enforced. We have laws regulating the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages, including whiskey, wine and beer. It is legal to sell and buy these alcoholic liquors, but the drinking of them causes many to commit misdemeanors and crimes and get them into jail and prison.

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Marquis Childs Labor Headache

RETURNING to Washington for Christmas or for his Florida vacation, President Truman will discover in the dock and ready to sail the same old, same old troubles he is likely to face during the coming four years. Foreign aid, inflation, campaign finance, labor are tied together in the crippling straits on the East and West Coast.

At the same time the two big trade union associations, the AFL-CIO in annual convention are calling for a new anti-Racketeer Labor Hartley Act. William Green of the AFL has gone further to demand that the House Anti-Racketeer Labor Act and the Sen. Act aimed at featherbedding in the radio industry be stricken off.

To officials responsible for administering collective bargaining laws it would be a welcome sound should the Congress go the whole way, administering the laws in a businesslike, businesslike position.

Responsible unions that helped bring about the Truman management might not abuse their privileges through the use of their power. Unions are not dominated by Communists, and there are some who would like to see them embarrased.

If Winter comes, can John L. Lewis be the man to lead the new quoted line from Keats. Rogers are that Lewis, who once led the miners, is a man of political buffing and putting has no effect whatsoever, a spooling for the President. A nice long coal strike would be a good thing for the President would it.

Nor has the President forgotten his part in the two years ago threatened to bring the nation to a standstill. He has not forgotten that he is the President who asked the right to draft striking railway workers into the Army over wartime purposes.

COMPROMISE LIKELY Response to the labor must deal with labor are talking about a compromise which would compromise the people of America. The Hartley Act with three-fourths of the old Wagner Act. As they see it, the Hartley Act is a compromise.

President Truman on record in a State of the Union message that he is not a man of compromise. He is a man of compromise.

After every election in this country comes across about the same old, same old. What's the answer? 1. Should people be prodded into voting by fining them for not voting?

That would get more people to vote. It works in Australia and New Zealand, where there are fines for the stay-at-homes.

That too probably would get a lot more people to the polls. 3. Or should voting or not voting be left to the people themselves? But suppose the democracy collapses sometime because too many voters don't vote?

In that case, democracy would have to be marked off as a failure which collapses. It is a failure that too much of a chance to try.

There are old questions. But now they have become new questions. What arm by Rep. Klein, New York Democrat, would like to see a VOTING BILL.

He's just announced he'll introduce in the new Congress a bill to reduce the income tax on the vote. He doesn't seem to have a high opinion of the vote.

His idea is this: Give everyone who votes a credit against the income tax. A deduction from the income tax. How much deduction? About \$30 for the average voter. He says he starts figuring his tax. The actual tax saving would be small.

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Forestral Feuding

WASHINGTON (A Summary by Congressional Quarterly)

Air Admiral Explains

WASHINGTON (A Summary by Congressional Quarterly)

Berlin Reas Plan To Take Over Germany

WASHINGTON (A Summary by Congressional Quarterly)