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A CHALLENGE TO NORTH CAROLINA

IF ANY North Carolinians entertained lingering doubts about the man they elected Governor for the next four years, they might as well put them to rest right now. The plain-spoken, forthright dairy farmer from Haw River struck a happy balance between aggressiveness and caution in his inaugural address yesterday. If he can keep the State Government on its feet, North Carolina can look forward to possibly its greatest period of progress in history.

It is hard to find fault with any major part of the Governor's address. Calm in his speech, he set a sane, realistic tone for the year ahead. He placed primary emphasis where it belongs, on such things as roads, schools, and health, and almost makes one wish that in this year of 1949 the State had enough money to carry out the program and that the Governor of North Carolina had more powerful political powers.

For the success or failure of the Scott program, under our system will depend largely on the co-operation of the General Assembly. And this 1949 Legislature has a sizeable sprinkling of men who favored Charles M. Johnson for Governor and who were, at least until yesterday, either skeptical about Kerr Scott or simply unimpressed. It will be difficult for them to remain so after reading and re-reading his inaugural address.

MOST obvious over-all impression of the speech was that the new Governor kept faith with the voters. Not in a long time has North Carolina had a candidate who stumped the state from one end to the other explaining in such precise terms where he stood on the big issues. There was no doubt about Kerr Scott's position on anything. That he should live up to his campaign promises to the letter is an encouraging indication of his innate honesty and strength of character.

Second, the address reaffirmed his tenacious belief in the benefits of a well-rounded program of State services, with emphasis on the rural areas. This, too, was no doubt about. Kerr Scott's program is a successful farmer, descended from a line of successful farmers, but because he had become so intimately acquainted with such problems that he could long tenure as Secretary of Agriculture.

Finally, the new Governor showed due concern for the thermometer-like character of the State's general system which is extremely sensitive to prosperity and recession. Nowhere—except the suggestion that a road bond issue might be necessary—was there any indication that Kerr Scott was at all bent on retreating from the pay-as-you-go principle the State has been following for several years.

TOGETHER they have a job to do," he told the General Assembly, in an opening bid for co-operation which set the tone for the whole address. And then, expressing his complete confidence in the future, he uttered the rare and precious phrase: "I am confident that we do not have a real surplus, but actually a deficit in public services."

That is a new and accurate appraisal of the present situation in North Carolina. We will agree with it. Now, what does he propose to do about it?

As he so often promised during the campaign, the Governor asked the Legislature to consider roads as the first basic problem. With him, good rural roads are more than a means for hauling products to market. They are necessary for rural residents to reach the shopping centers, the churches, the hospitals, and for school buses to reach the schools. Furthermore, he believes that the rural areas need the best source of a stable labor supply, and that good roads are necessary if industry is to draw workers from among the thousands of small farmers.

But the new Governor would not himself plunge the State in debt to build these roads. He mentioned the possibility of increasing the gasoline tax, though an increase of that sort would only produce about \$7,000,000, but suggested that the issuance of bonds might have to be resorted to. Such a bond issue would have to be repaid in three months by the State. If the people want to vote a new road bill, it's their privilege to do so.

On the matter of improving the State's educational system he was equally insistent. The question, he said, "is not whether we need to increase our expenditures for public schools, but how far we can afford to go—or not to go." The \$2,400 minimum teacher salary he urged is certainly in line with the State's ability to pay and the needs of our profession. With increments, would help attract capable, well-trained teachers. But he wisely withheld outright approval of a proposal that the State into the schoolhouse-building business to the tune of \$50,000,000 the first year, pending further study by the General Assembly. His final suggestion on education, a novel and interesting one, was that the State conduct a new system of junior colleges which would (1) afford vocational training for those students who do not wish a higher education, and (2) bridge the big gap between public class-room standards and those of the higher institutions for students who do wish to pursue a bachelor's degree.

The third major point in his address was devoted to health. Those of us who fought so hard for the Good Health Program must have been comforted by his pledge of full co-operation with its objectives, and not only with the medical school, but with the University of North Carolina which will take exception to his view that main emphasis should be placed on the rural clinics and hospitals rather than on the city and suburban centers. The State's health officials will also take heart from his espousal of their cause, and the thousands of mentally afflicted persons who are languishing in our institutions. When the State's entrance will get in some jail cell awaiting entry after a better break if the Governor's expressed wishes are carried out.

And he would go further than merely furnishing treatment for tuberculosis victims. The cattle men stamped out tuberculosis in cattle entirely. Why can't people stamp it out, too, he asked. There's something to think about.

HAVING outlined these basic problems, the new chief executive then went down the line with his other campaign pledges, and it is hard to find fault with many of them. He wants old age benefits to be geared to the cost of living; natural resources to be used wisely, and in new ways. He believes that the State needs a stronger Utilities Commission which will require the public utilities to extend electricity and telephone service to the rural areas. He is properly concerned about the rapid growth of the spinning board system, and would "go slow in creating new boards." He promised the voters he would ask for a statewide liquor referendum, and he did. He suggested that the State's closed shop law (just held constitutional by the U. S. Supreme Court) was "harsh," and thought such State laws should conform to national legislation.

He warned against permitting our taxes on business to get out of line with other states, favored higher unemployment benefits with no increase, and probably a decrease, in the assessment on business, recommended the establishment of a modern personnel system for the State which would select the best quality of persons to be heard in any complaint regarding terms or conditions of employment.

He closed his address with a definition of the respective spheres of local government and State government, and tossed a disappointingly small sop to municipalities and counties. He said that the appropriation for the upkeep of city streets be doubled (from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000) and that business and privilege taxes be turned back to the cities (an amount estimated at about \$2,500,000). Finally, he expressed a determination to take full advantage of whatever Federal aid may be forthcoming from the new administration, from to national labor legislation, and to let principles stand in the way of cold, hard cash from Washington since North Carolinians will be kicking in their share of the bill anyway.

IT COME into office with no skeletons in my closet, and I shall strive zealously to see that none creep into the State's closets. He is properly concerned about the pledged, his only lapse into the dry, pungent wit for which he is noted. And he closed his address with the challenge: "It is a challenge which the General Assembly, and the people of the State, can well afford to accept."

A man who thinks before he speaks. Might not say anything for weeks. —Greenfield (Tenn.) Sun.



People's Platform

Dr. Holt and World Government

CHARLOTTE

Editors, The News: THE average American newspaper reader is essentially a headline skimmer. The skimmer, interested then, scan the first paragraph, briefly glimpse the second, and hurriedly pass on to a concluding and unobscured subject.

For this reason it is doubtful if more than a few paused long enough to read The News editors' note attached to the recent issue of the world government by Dr. Hamilton Holt. Therefore, it will be inappropriate to look closely at this particular note which states: "Dr. Holt... is a member of the national advisory board of the United World Federalists."

At first glance the assertion makes little or no impression. But coupled with related facts it becomes highly significant. For top man of the world government by Dr. Hamilton Holt. Therefore, it will be inappropriate to look closely at this particular note which states: "Dr. Holt... is a member of the national advisory board of the United World Federalists."

Others of the group include Charles G. Bolte, head of the left-wing American Veterans Committee; Roy C. Brown, the notorious Red Party line smear bull known as Friends of Democracy.

Dr. Holt is well known as a member of the sponsoring committee of the American People's Congress and as an associate of the outfit called "Open Road," an affiliate of the Soviet Government which conducts propaganda tours catering particularly to students and teachers. The outfit's motto is also listed in the Link Committee Report on subversive activities.

Moreover, Dr. Holt is an old and clever hand at slipping past unsuspecting subscribers motivated staff that seems so innocent as prattle, but which upon closer examination reveals a hidden agenda.

It is evident, however, that the great powers will never submit to such a schema. They are nervous as to where the seal of such a project should be placed. They are nervous as to where the seal of such a project should be placed. They are nervous as to where the seal of such a project should be placed.

This can be done only through a system of secret ballots, which is the only way that respects the dignity of the individual. Until time and intelligent effort produce such a constitution, what is proposed is a farce.

"No, John," replied Mr. Truman, "we're going to do it this way." Four Cabinet members united as a team to tone down the State of the Union message, especially references to corporate taxes, Secretary of Defense, Secretary of Commerce, Acting Secretary of State Lovett, and Snyder. They worked together beautifully, taming their concurrences with Truman so that he never guessed what they were up to.

However, he didn't weaken. His reply in every case was: "This is what the people voted for and this is what they're going to get."

Truman Leads Congress

THERE has been another change in the President since Election Day. It is working much more closely with the Congress. Three months went by that winter without a conference with Barkley and Sam Rayburn, but now Truman has had them in for frequent conferences and even called on Speaker Rayburn personally the day Congress opened.

New Deal Continued

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

PRESIDENT Truman is picking himself as far as the New Deal went. President Roosevelt dropped the New Deal as a slogan.

With few exceptions, Mr. Truman has pretty much followed the straight talk of Mr. Roosevelt and the New Deal days and even went beyond it.

For that reason the most unusual thing about the President's message was what little there was new in it.

The New Deal really lasted only five years, from 1933 to 1938. Then it was pretty much abandoned. The country prepared for war.

Some of it he tried to start going himself as far back as 1945, but he got nowhere. Now he's moving, full steam ahead.

He has been in the medical insurance—President Hoover's Medical Commission in 1932 recommended this. He has been in the medical insurance—President Hoover's Medical Commission in 1932 recommended this.

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Democracy In Action

Edwin D. Canham

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SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—With the inauguration of Governor Martin as the first elected Governor of Puerto Rico, the peoples of continental United States and the island have entered into a new relationship, which seems to mark the beginning of a new era for the colonial peoples of other parts of the world who an evolutionary democracy has to offer them.

Their own elected Governor, the people of Puerto Rico have almost all the advantages of statehood, plus something no state has: exemption from Federal income taxation. They have advantages far greater than anything mainlanders can give them. They have free entry into the market of continental United States. They have millions of dollars of Federal money every year. Thus they have an unprecedented opportunity to achieve the economic strength that mainlanders try to do without a subsidy.

DEMOCRATIC BULWARK If the peoples of Indonesia, or Indo-China could see what is happening in Puerto Rico, they would be vulnerable to the arguments of Communism. Or, rather, if the Dutch and the French could see what has been achieved here, Communism might run into stronger currents in southern Asia and other colonial areas.

Puerto Rico is the only territory, and its new Governor speaking with the mandate of a 60 per cent vote of the people, on Jan. 2 expressed his gratitude for the unprecedented interest on the part of the United States.

This is a new pattern for solving the colonial problem. It is better than anything else. It is not independent like the British and American colonies. It is not a statehood like that of Hawaii and Alaska. It is a new pattern for solving the colonial problem. It is better than anything else. It is not independent like the British and American colonies. It is not a statehood like that of Hawaii and Alaska.

But Government cannot be so generous if the people of Puerto Rico are not ready to take the responsibility for their own future. He realizes that this need for responsibility is a great step.

Department of Labor rebuild and strengthen the New Deal. Roosevelt did this in a special message to Congress in 1938.

Federal aid to education—Roosevelt's Democratic Party had been elected to a fourth term in 1944. Strengthen our anti-rust laws—Government should take the authority to regulate the steel industry. In one way or another, we set up back to back.

They were flushed out by the activity of moving New Britain. They were flushed out by the activity of moving New Britain. They were flushed out by the activity of moving New Britain.

OPPOSITION TO CHARITY

WHERE the Federal laws amended so that persons making income tax returns would be permitted to charge off more than 15 per cent of their income for their gifts to churches, hospitals and colleges, the good works and were property of those charitable institutions would be immensely enlarged, their beneficiaries would be multiplied and the amount of voluntary gifts (that not voluntary is not charitable) would spread among the people. However, the necessity would fall upon government to raise many thousand

TRUMAN MADE OWN DECISIONS ON MESSAGE

PRESIDENT Truman in a dither last Spring and which caused him to make the Kansas City speech about division inside the Kremlin.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THOSE who sat with President Truman as he wrote his message to the Congress of the Union message noted an important change.

Quote, Unquote

What the world needs right now is an arrangement whereby our speaker can be constantly attached to the still small voice of conscience—Fleming (NY) World.

Merry-Go-Round

SECRETARY of the Interior Krug has been making gentle overtures toward having his undersecretary, Oscar Chapman, appointed as U. S. Ambassador to the Philippines.

Under the Dome

IT'S secret but significant that, shortly before Senate Majority was elected, President Pro Tem of the Senate, he and Tennessee cohorts were greatly reminded that they had not been elected for the campaign.

Mice In The Senate

ATLANTA and its homeless cockroaches scampered around the Senate floor, but they were flushed out by the activity of moving New Britain.