

THE LEGISLATURE AND THE SCHOOLS

RALEIGH—Of all the major proposals which have been introduced before the General Assembly so far, the emergency school building program and teacher salary boost advocated by Governor Scott are quite probably the most popular.

Yet, paradoxically, they will probably be on the loudest, and longest, arguments, for there is a great deal of difference of opinion about the best way to achieve the two objectives.

The Advisory Budget Commission recommended an allocation of \$83,000,000 for the 1949-50 fiscal year school operating expenses. This was adequate for a 20 per cent boost in teacher salaries, considerably less than the \$2.40 minimum recommended by the Education Commission and supported by Governor Scott.

Last week the Governor went before the Legislature and submitted a double-barreled program:

- 1. The use of the \$30,000,000 "cushion" fund held as a reserve against falling revenues, plus a \$50,000,000 bond issue, to provide a total of \$80,000,000 for a school building program...
2. A salary range of \$2,200 to \$3,100 for school teachers, which would require \$104,000,000 in the 1949-50 fiscal year...

Initial reaction to the Scott recommendations was overwhelmingly favorable, but members of the General Assembly, now that they have had time to study the proposition, are asking a good many questions.

In the first place, they don't quite like the way the Governor wants to spend that \$80,000,000. The Assembly, mindful of the financial woes of the 1930's, set it up specifically to protect salaries of teachers and State employees in the event of another recession. They have cherished it through recent years, and now they feel they would be breaking faith with State-paid workers by spending it.

THERE are also a good many questions about the way Governor Scott backed into the bond issue-reserve fund question. He said:

I recommend this use of the post war reserve fund in full realization that this money may be needed to protect appropriations for the War Relocation Authority...

I recommend that this be done by authorizing submission to the people of a \$30 million dollar bond issue. With the provision that some of the bonds be sold until the 30 million dollar fund is used up, or in the event that it is necessary to replenish the reserve fund to prevent reductions in the amount of the 16 sufficient general fund tax collections...

The question is being asked, and with good reason, why didn't Scott simply suggest that the \$60 millions from the reserve fund be used up, and that the 30 millions be used later if no threat of recession appears?

Also, how is the State ever again going to accumulate such a reserve fund except

during another period of wartime inflation, once the present fund is spent?

THE other point in the Scott proposal which is beginning to meet opposition is his suggestion that the foundation plan of financing recommended by a majority of the Education Commission be applied to operating expenses only.

The foundation plan, as originally outlined by the Commission, was an all-inclusive program of financing which lumps together capital outlay (now the responsibility of the counties) with operating expenses (now the responsibility of the State) into one State appropriation.

It suggested a ratio—somewhere between 90 per cent State-10 per cent local and 70 per cent State-30 per cent local—for sharing the cost. In determining what each county's share would be, certain measurements of the county's ability to pay would be employed.

But the important thing is that it included both capital outlay and operating expenses.

Along came Governor Scott and recommended that, in addition to keeping responsibility for capital outlay (other than \$30,000,000 for the \$80,000,000 bond issue), the counties assume 15 per cent of the \$104,000,000 it would cost in the 1949-50 fiscal year for operating expenses only. This would amount to about \$15,000,000 in additional burdens on the counties, and in the case of Mecklenburg, for example, would call for an increase of 35 cents on the tax rate, according to figures submitted this week by Dr. Clarence H. Stated.

Stated another way: Of the \$31,000,000 Scott asked over and above the Budget Commission's \$83,000,000 recommendation's three-fourths would be put up locally by the counties.

THERE are other questions to be answered. Are the indices recommended as measures of a county's wealth fair and just? They are (A) volume of retail sales, (B) Value of farm products, (C) State income tax returns, (D) Number of persons actually employed. And the same questions apply to the way Governor Scott backed into the bond issue-reserve fund question.

Where is the money coming from to finance the \$50,000,000 bond issue? Will Governor's own estimates of \$14,000,000 a year to carry his \$200,000,000 bond issue, a \$40,000,000 school bond issue would require \$250,000,000 a year, an amount he did not figure on in his school estimates.

How would the school building funds be handed out to the counties? Would they be outright grants? Matching grants? Would they be loans, with the interest paying according to the wealth of the county? And would the State thereby get a much-needed vote in the placing and design of the schools to achieve maximum efficiency?

It's not quite so simple as Governor Scott indicates. The school problems connected with a major increase in school teacher salaries and an emergency school building bond issue have members of the Legislature scratching their heads.

They seem to want to do as much as possible for education. But they are asking something more workable than the Scott plan.—Pete McKnight.

Our Jet-Propelled Antique

Joseph Alsop

What Sort Of Germany?



By any test, remarkable progress has been achieved in Germany. The French have been whittling away at the London agreement ever since the war...

To be sure, this brings production up to only three-quarters of the average. But Germany now has millions more mouths to feed on the same poor soil as before...

There is no space here for technicalities. It is enough to say that the French have succeeded in reducing the projected West German population to 70 million...

It is better, of course, to have a West German Government on the model of the one proposed by the occupying forces. But if the French insist on their own, it is merely colonial in status...

While colonial political patterns always vanish in this manner, economic ones do not. Hence some of the wiser Americans and British here are taking new interest in the future of the Ruhr...

As soon as colonial political patterns always vanish in this manner, economic ones do not. Hence some of the wiser Americans and British here are taking new interest in the future of the Ruhr...

These men actively advocate socialization of the Ruhr industrial complex.

People's Platform

Pastor Fink Urges Prohibition

Editors, This News: WHILE I greatly deplore the recent tragic deaths of the five men in Gaston County resulting from drinking a poison mixture of paint thinner...

Hits Jones Pension Stand

Enclosed is a copy of a letter I have written and mailed to Congressman Hamilton C. Jones, concerning his position on the pension plan for veterans.

Mecklenburg Declaration

In regard to your article entitled "Correction" printed in Monday's Paper (People's Platform) that the Mecklenburg Declaration in the Hershank Alexander Rock Home was incorrect.

Marquis Childs

The Pressure Grows

WASHINGTON THE economic medicine men are pointing to try to solve the problem of what is happening to us. They come up with strange words such as "inflation," "deflation," and "stagflation," which mean the same thing as politics.

People's Platform

As a veteran of World War II (three years overseas as a businessman of Charlotte and most especially as a citizen of this great country of ours) I feel obliged to try to shake you from your political lethargy.

Mecklenburg Declaration

The information was given to me and the author of the article in the present series of the Mecklenburg D.A.R. by Rev. C. M. Pickens, former member of the Home where the Rock Home is located.

THE POLICE CHIEF'S RECORD

BEFORE Gaston County was made "bone dry" last October 27 with the abolition of legal beer and wine, we heard plenty of debate on whether complete prohibition would increase or reduce the number of arrests for drunkenness and associated crimes.

Police Chief Carr Elliott's report for the month of January throws enough light on the subject to at least show the trend that has set in, if not answering the questions outright. Are we enjoying less frequent instances of crime, now that beer, whiskey, and wine are all outlawed? Or is there a record show that law violations are more on the increase?

Let's look at the police chief's record, picking up only a few items such as total arrests, drunk arrests, drunken driving, gambling, and prohibition violations:

Table with columns: Jan. 1948, Jan. 1949, Increase, Decrease. Rows: Total Arrests, Drunk Arrests, Drunkenness, Driv. Wn. Drunk, Gambling, Violation P. L.

It can easily be seen that the chart above shows an increase in total arrests, drunk driving, gambling, and prohibition violations, with a slight decrease in the number of arrests for drunkenness. The decrease in drunkenness from a year ago (when beer and wine were legal) is only about 8

THE POLICE CHIEF'S RECORD

per cent. The increase in the number of bootleggers is about 27 per cent. The pertinent questions left in one's mind are: Is prohibition paying off? Where are these people (164 of them) getting their drinks so that they become so intoxicated they have to be locked up?

According to a story from Oakland, California, a woman threw away an old corset inside which she had planned a wad of dynamite. She salvaged the corset off of the dump and tried to find the money but of course it was gone. Moral: You can never tell what is inside an old corset.—Kingsport (Tenn.) Times.

After getting knocked down by an automobile, a Chicago pedestrian was haled into a traffic court on a charge of jaywalking, which makes him subject to a \$300 fine. This has all the earmarks of a scheme to sell cars.—Greensboro (N. C.) Daily News.

Mr. Grant, Nancy Grant's husband that is, was in one of those wet days last week when he was on his subscription. Said he had seen it too wet to plow, even too wet to cut farm drain ditches, but for the first time too wet to top timber.—Elizhay (Ga.) Times-Courier.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THE historic journey of 40 French '40 men-horned cars through the USA is just about over. Except where some delay delayed the ceremony the boxcars have all been delivered. The French committee of railroadmen, who spent months collecting the gifts that were donated to the pleasure of seeing President Truman. They were to be used to transport a cohort of five block yards away from where they had to be, to the great joy of the people of Washington.

Governors Did Selves Proud

AND a great many governors, mayors, and patriotic citizens were in wiser than when they were in the Department. Gov. Tom Mabry of New Mexico sent his pal to Santa Fe; Gov. Frank Carlson, from the French committee of railroadmen, who spent months collecting the gifts that were donated to the pleasure of seeing President Truman.

French Return With Enthusiasm For U.S.

Frenchmen are going home enthusiastic rosters for the USA. They did not know the American people but they did get to know the American people. They were made Kentucky colonists, honorary citizens of Delaware, and honorary citizens of Wyoming. Inspected the great Goodbye Rubber Plant at Akron, watched the Pueblo Indians dance in New Mexico and enjoyed the charm and hospitality of the South...

Spread Gospel Of America

TAKE the case of M. Charles D'Esques, a shop foreman of the French railways, as a member of the Joint Legislatures of more than 20 States. He appeared before the Joint Legislatures of more than 20 States. He appeared before the Joint Legislatures of more than 20 States. He appeared before the Joint Legislatures of more than 20 States.

French Return With Enthusiasm For U.S.

Frenchmen are going home enthusiastic rosters for the USA. They did not know the American people but they did get to know the American people. They were made Kentucky colonists, honorary citizens of Delaware, and honorary citizens of Wyoming. Inspected the great Goodbye Rubber Plant at Akron, watched the Pueblo Indians dance in New Mexico and enjoyed the charm and hospitality of the South...

Friendship Foundation Needed

THE Government of France which signs the North Atlantic pact may be out of office the following day. But the people of France go on forever. And as long as the French people stand with the people of the United States and the people of the world, they will be able to win in our eyes. But the French didn't send us a train. They sent their train to the American people instead.