

MARQUIS W. CHILDS

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON, Publisher; J. B. DOWD, General Manager; R. S. GRIFFITH, Executive Editor; C. A. MCKNIGHT, Editor

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 1951

THE BATTLE OF THE BUDGET

(Editorial Correspondence) RALEIGH—When the carefully-figured \$500 million State Appropriations measure...

school system's operating cost. What worries some legislators is the thought that the State may have taken on more than it can manage. One of them put it this way: "In eighteen years, no other State has followed North Carolina's example. That in itself ought to make us wonder whether we did the right thing."

Other groups were not completely satisfied. Some of the State institutions had asked for larger appropriations for permanent improvements, and for regaining expenses when the State boards and agencies would have been happier with more money for their services.

EDUCATION is not the only thing that is worrying this General Assembly. The medical care program, including the four-year medical college at the University of North Carolina, also shows up in the annual appropriations measure.

The debate was long and bitter in the House on last Friday, and again on Tuesday. Back in January the ultra-conservative Advisory Budget Commission had failed by some \$17 million, to recommend enough money to continue the 23-31 schedule.

In prosperous times, the State's revenue system, geared largely to income and sales tax, produces money in a spectacular fashion. For example, the 1949-50 General Fund revenue estimate for the current fiscal year was \$131 million. By the time the Legislature convened in January of this year, the estimate had grown to \$146 million.

THE economy group kept its counsel. After all requests were made for a full review committee, the budget was turned over to a subcommittee. And it was at that time that the school forces got a bright idea. A "round-robin" was circulated for House members to sign.

And next year's appropriations measure is based on the assumption that the General Fund will yield some \$171 million a year in each year of the 1951-53 biennial.

Then the appropriations subcommittee made its strategic move. Taking a much closer look at the booming State revenues — as THE NEWS previously reported — it would do so — the subcommittee found it could increase appropriations, not by \$38 million as Governor Scott had asked, but by \$43 million, without unbalancing the budget and without adding any new taxes.

Table with 2 columns: Year, General Fund Revenue. Rows include 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50.

Hence, when the school forces made their last-ditch fight this week, they were in the strategically weak position of having had their earlier "round-robin" request fulfilled. Many members of the House, explaining their vote against the Royter amendment...

AND that is what is concerning some of the more conservative members of the General Assembly. They point to the 1949-50 fiscal year when the General Fund plummeted \$8 million, mainly because of a sharp decrease in income and sales tax receipts reflecting the temporary business depression.

NOT all of the votes for and against the Royter amendment were governed by immediate tax and revenue considerations. This General Assembly is giving more thought than any of its recent predecessors to the overall picture of State services in relation to the State's ability to pay for them.

THE \$502 million budget for the next biennium (including Highway and Agricultural Funds) is based on the premise that there will be no recession in the next two years of estimated prosperity. They point to the Congress to cut back the national defense program substantially, North Carolina's General Fund receipts may drop so sharply that the Governor will either have to cut appropriations across the board or call the Legislature back into special session to legislate new taxes.

REPREHENSIBLE PRACTICE

THE Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals did not overstate the case when it described secret kick-backs from opticians to doctors as "unconscionable and reprehensible."

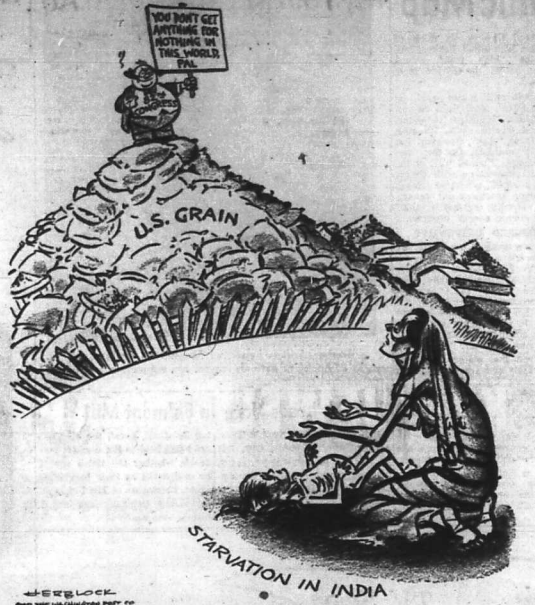
It is, in a way, somewhat of a paradox that the "hold-the-line" boys in the Legislature, as Governor Scott has called them, have taken what appears to be a long chance with future revenue. It is true that they held the line against new taxes, and it is equally true that they reflected popular sentiment when they did so.

Some members of Congress insist that one hand of the A.P.C. is cleaner than the other. A backbone that can fend off schemers and fraudsters like Jesse Jones did.—New Orleans States.

Any tremor you feel is probably caused by Dr. Nasmith, who invented basketball, turning over violently in his grave.—Kingston (Tenn.) Times.

The American Medical Association and the Medical Society of North Carolina have condemned the practice as unethical. It follows that these two respected groups should take action to bring their wayward members in line, and keep them in line.

Double-Trouble: When you aren't worrying about what the future has in store, try worrying about what the stores will have in the future.—Fernandina (Fla.) News-Leader.



People's Platform

Leaders should be brief, written on one side of the paper. The writer's name must be signed, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the Editor.

Pointless Litigation CHARLOTTE Your recent editorial, "The Shaky Foundation of Segregation," is a brilliantly written and splendidly documented, and typical of the traditional excellence of the editorial columns of THE NEWS. Intelligent people cannot fail to admire the thoroughness with which you treat subjects, chosen for discussion. In this case, as usual, the subject matter is revealing, so that the subject of this editorial almost completely refutes the very first statement, upon which, in large measure, your top argument is based.

Furthermore, it is not only humanly impossible, physically, to provide "separate but equal" educational facilities, but the Circuit Court ruling basically implements the Supreme Court decision in the Texas case, by defining aspects of equality wholly outside the realm of equipment and facilities. And, granting that North Carolina has acted in "complete good faith," there is a vast difference between good intentions and the results obtained. Besides, we cannot quite follow your assumption that "the outcome" of this "case should have no bearing on the University's attitude toward its medical school and other graduate and professional schools." For there is no point in attempting to perpetuate the Durham Law School as a symbol of segregation, if it is conceded to be evident both to good intentions and the results obtained. For these reasons, among others, we can see no justification in President Gray's recommendation of an appeal in the Durham Law School case. Candidly, we would have been gratified if THE NEWS had not only discouraged prolonged litigation, based at best upon hair-splitting technicalities, but also that you had been realistic in the true and liberal sense in recognition of the fact that "cherished traditions," when obviously based upon injustice, must be surrendered ultimately, and the sooner the better. Segregation, is, indeed, a very costly "luxury," as you have so pertinently pointed out before, and one in which, in the light of present world war, North Carolina and the South can ill afford to indulge.

That is precisely the point. The Circuit Court's ruling clearly sets forth the fact, which should be obvious to all. Moreover, little doubt exists that the Supreme Court will fully sustain that decision. Further, your concluding statement that "North Carolina must abide by the law, no matter how much the law upsets cherished traditions. To do otherwise would be unthinkable. It is, indeed, unthinkable, we agree. In our humble opinion, therefore, your labored effort to show a fundamental difference in the two cases cited is merely begging the question and futile. And the resort to a review by the Supreme Court is a waste of time and effort, prolonging the agony of surrendering "cherished traditions." Your documentation of the two rulings, at best, reveals "a distinction without a difference." Although these are not one and the same, one complements the other. And unmistakably foreforeshadows what the Supreme Court will decide in the next little while. Indeed, you clearly indicate that (probably when you say: "Justice Vinson's opinion... came dangerously close to upholding the American automobile in the Supreme Court's 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson decision.")

—WALTER R. LOVELL, Editor, The Star of Zion.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

THE questions I have heard most frequently since returning from Europe are: "What do they think of us abroad? Why don't they like us better?" The questions are important. Because, while we have feared Europe after the war, later to reconstruct it, then to return it, the fact remains that they are not popular. To some degree our popularity can be measured by the estimate of esteem from the Iron Curtain. In Turkey, Yugoslavia, Berlin—all check-and-jowl with the Iron Curtain—we are popular. But as you travel away from Russia, France, Germany and Denmark, popularity drops. In Western Europe, however, if you get away from the newspaper comment, away from the cartoons and the sophisticated drawing-room conversations, you will find a genuine friendship for Americans among the real people of such countries as France. It comes out in little ways—such as an automobile mechanic who refuses to be paid for helping an American automobile in the French countryside, or the quiet tearing-down of Communist posters denouncing Eisenhower.

U. S. Prestige At Low Ebb in Britain

WHEN Harry Hudson had to pay 40 cents for a head of cabbage he went right out and bought and planted 100 more cabbage slips as his answer to such prices.—Shelby Daily Star. themselves being ill on the American side, they will themselves fling into war without having any chance to pause or argue. Reason No. 3.—The British have tightened their belts to such an extent that their public opinion is now no greater than during the war—eight years hence. In contrast they can't help watching a wealthy, unwarmed USA. Naturally they are envious of our higher standard of living. British merriment, incidentally, is not because the British can't get meat, but because meat costs precious dollars exchange. And the Labor government is making an advance warning of what would happen in a similar trade balance. Reason No. 4.—Differences with the USA over China and General MacArthur. While you find criticism of MacArthur in the States, it reaches a white heat in England. There he is sometimes called "the first strap of the American empire." MacArthur, to the British, is an American general who would happen in a similar way an American general, they fear, would dominate a weak White House and likewise the fate of Britain. Furthermore, there is grave misgiving that MacArthur is trying to expand the Korean war to China just for the purpose of expanding his own power. No matter how unjustified this misgiving, it is deep—and a serious factor in our relations with our hitherto understanding ally. Anglo-U. S. Spokesmen Needed TRUE above reasons are basic and cannot be changed in a season, but there are other public-opinion factors which could be changed overnight, if responsible people at the top worked at them. Here are two examples: 1. Adm. W. F. Fechteler.—The storm of British resentment over the appointment of this American admiral to command the Atlantic fleet under the North Atlantic Treaty has been avoided by Prime Minister Attlee himself. Real fact was that he was poorly briefed. When Winston Churchill upbraided Attlee on the floor of Commons for permitting Admiral Fechteler's appoint-

Japan there are also charges. In a past treaty worked up by John Foster Dulles no restrictions are placed on the right to build up the fleet. The British take the view that this right should be sharply curtailed. There are differences of a further difference over a prospective Pacific defense pact which would include the Philippines as a resumption to the North Atlantic defense agreement. The British want Hong Kong and Malaya included in the pact. In the American view this would be impractical. Differences are also developing over what to do about Iran. The political-economic situation in that country is so deteriorating so rapidly the British fear a Communist or Communist-dominated government may soon come into power in Tehran. With Iran's oil industry already nationalized, this would certainly mean the cutting off of an oil supply vital to Britain and Western Europe.

That threat was one of the problems presented by Secretary of State Acheson's visit to London and Foreign Minister Schuman's of France during their Washington talks. The British are anxious for a revival of its petroleum supply from the Middle East, chiefly from Iran and Iraq. Finally, we come to Paris. Advances to the State Dept. are to government may soon come into power in Italy. With Iran's oil industry already nationalized, this would certainly mean the cutting off of an oil supply vital to Britain and Western Europe.

On the question of peace with North Korea, the British are ready to launch a major new Korean peace proposal. If such a proposal is in fact made, it would certainly mean the cutting off of an oil supply vital to Britain and Western Europe. Rumors have persisted that Britain was ready to cast a veto on a UN stage ready for unveiling. A suggestion of Britain's urgent desire for peace in Korea is being made by a new Foreign Minister, Herbert Morrison, in his first major pronouncement.

But the highest military opinion, and it is believed the State Dept. holds the same view, doubts the wisdom of Korean peace at this time. General MacArthur reports that the Communist Chinese are ready to launch a new offensive with perhaps as many as 63 divisions. Not until that onslaught has been successfully repelled will the view of military planners, will the time be propitious for talking peace.

On the question of peace with North Korea, the British are ready to launch a major new Korean peace proposal. If such a proposal is in fact made, it would certainly mean the cutting off of an oil supply vital to Britain and Western Europe. Rumors have persisted that Britain was ready to cast a veto on a UN stage ready for unveiling. A suggestion of Britain's urgent desire for peace in Korea is being made by a new Foreign Minister, Herbert Morrison, in his first major pronouncement.

Price-Fixing Hinges On One One-Syllable Word: Votes

IF THERE IS anybody in the house who can tell a simple bill paper what the devil goes on with this new system of price controls on food, as recently dreamed in Washington, I will send him my undying thanks and give him a butcher's thumb, on a silver salver. (Butcher's thumbs are going at the present rate of \$3,000 per count, according to the latest bulletin from Mike DiSalle.)

The existing regulations have been so complex and so convoluted as to be for chain retailers, independent retailers, and wholesalers. Grocers are ready to reject the controls on their goods every Monday, according to the signs of the sodie and the signs of the sodie and the signs of the sodie.

And I will tell you why, in simple little words. The political approach to price-fixing on food is a trap for the farmer and the bull grower and the dairyman, whose vote is necessary.

But what I think they overlook is that they are underestimating the anger of the housewife who is not married to a farmer or a cattle raiser, and who shriek aloud at the tills in her grocery bill. And who know that such an obvious inequity as different prices for the same commodity, for controls on meat, poultry, fish and dairy products. You allow so much market for meat, poultry, fish and dairy products. You allow so much market for meat, poultry, fish and dairy products.

But the way she stands now I don't know from next Tuesday about the cost of dinner, and I don't think you do, either.

Actually, there was nothing wrong with the Mexican beef, caused by the United States in Oklahoma—except for one thing. It was cooked with gray. The American housewife, when buying canned meat, likes it with a little gray. It is sold by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture to the British instead.

Incidentally it was sold at a bargain price, but abuse was done in the distribution of the meat. This was another case where a dozen words of clarification by the American ambassador or a member of the British Embassy would have saved a lot of ill-will and a lot of ill-will.

Incidentally it was sold at a bargain price, but abuse was done in the distribution of the meat. This was another case where a dozen words of clarification by the American ambassador or a member of the British Embassy would have saved a lot of ill-will and a lot of ill-will.

Incidentally it was sold at a bargain price, but abuse was done in the distribution of the meat. This was another case where a dozen words of clarification by the American ambassador or a member of the British Embassy would have saved a lot of ill-will and a lot of ill-will.