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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1954

Abolition Of Sales Tax Exemptions Would Help Solve Financial Puzzle

WHERE'S the money coming from? In state government circles, this question has become as bleak and stylized as the ticking of clock hands.

General fund revenues for fiscal 1953-54 (first year of the current biennium) amounted to \$184,709,887—or \$2,104,417 short of the legislative estimate.

THE picture is vastly different when sales taxes are considered. This source of revenue added \$55,508,817 in 1953-54. It is estimated "conservatively" by Mr. McLeod that total collections could be increased by 38 million dollars if all current exemptions to the sales tax were eliminated.

This long list of exemptions has Tar Heel citizens of constant wonder to Bar Heel citizens. Almost nobody likes sales taxes. The fairness of such a system is open to serious question for the rich and the poor are taxed equally on many of the essentials of life.

General fund tax revenues are currently running about \$30 million dollars short of anticipated 1954-55 expenditures.

SHOULD expenses be trimmed or taxes raised? Both measures may be necessary. Even if legislators take the ax to current operations and permanent improvement requests, the prospect is that millions of dollars will still be needed.

The tax fields for this search are well defined. North Carolina's present tax structure is nicely balanced. There are, in fact, only nine classes of levies: (1) income taxes, (2) sales taxes, (3) inheritance and gift taxes, (4) license and privilege taxes, (5) franchise taxes, (6) beverage (alcohol) taxes, (7) intangible property taxes, (8) insurance taxes, and (9) freight car taxes.

Neither Flies Nor Strings On Hodges LUTHER HODGES got off to a good start as governor of North Carolina last week.

He indicated to department heads that he wants them to stay on the job as long as they do "as the people of North Carolina expect."

He canceled public engagements for 60 days, in order to acquaint himself with his responsibilities. Later he hopes to get around the state.

He announced plans for holding two press conferences a week. He is, say Raleigh observers, assimilating details of his job quickly and making decisions promptly.

The governor says there will be a "minimum of political turn" to his actions. We take that as a corollary to his position, taking during his campaign for the

'Official Statement — Politics Is Not Interfering With Our Work—'



People's Platform

Letters should be brief. The writer's name and address must be given, but may be withheld from publication in the discretion of the editors. The News reserves the right to condense.

Archivist Comments On Roadside Markers

Editors: The News: I HAVE read with interest your editorial of Oct. 29, titled "On This Spot In 1776..."

Those who are handling the program are well aware of the problems you mention and we are trying to improve the situation.

We make a point of presenting the most important information at the top of the plaque, so that it is not possible to read the inscription at least the part which contains the most important points.

You will be glad to know that our marker system has been praised by literally thousands of persons, both within and without the state.

Democratic Primaries 'For Members Only'

Editors: I HAVE noted several letters to the editor, some of which violently object to "down-the-line" Democratic voting as suggested by Judge Sedberry.

Now this is a free country and because it is free it has free elections. Judge Sedberry would be the first to proclaim this great principle. He would tell no person under the sun that he should in a general election vote for a Democrat or Republican or submit himself to the "election" system.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON I Judge John Marshall Harlan is anybody like his grandfather, President Eisenhower has picked an A-1 new justice for the Supreme Court.

His grandfather, appointed to the Supreme Court in 1877, was a julep-drinker in Kentucky, and in his own right, but battled for the cause of the Negro both as a member of the Union Army and on the Supreme Court.

That case, U. S. vs. Harris, was decided in 1883. Congress had passed an act giving by Sen. Sumner of Massachusetts authorized legal privileges to Negroes in "bars, public conveyances and places of public accommodation."

"primary." The primary is the method the Democrats or Republicans, if they so choose, have of selecting candidates for the several public offices. It so happens that in this country the voters are never treated with the privilege of voting in a Republican primary.

Since the Democrats pay filing fees in order to offer themselves for office in the primary and no nominee therein is of the faith of any other party, then it is rightly called a Democratic primary.

Here is what our North Carolina law (a portion of G. S. 128-128) says about those faithless people who vote in the primaries, but who oppose the nominees selected in the primary when they get the opportunity in the general elections.

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Harlan's Granddad Was A Fighter

of the essence of civil liberty." Despite that dissent, Justice Harlan's brethren continued to make a mockery of the original intent of the 14th Amendment, while Harlan continued to write opinions championing the rights of the people.

It is for Congress, not the judiciary, to say what legislation is appropriate. The judiciary may not, with safety to the institutions, enter the domain of legislative discretion and detail the means which Congress shall employ in the exercise of its granted power.

B-29 Appeasement

Air Force officers are burned up at the way President Eisenhower shrugged off the B-29 incident.

He conceded that the plane was being over a disputed area when it was shot down by Russian fighters, though he refused to claim that the plane was in fact the Russians claim the Arctic Ocean all the way to the North Pole or Soviet territory. This will invite the Rus-

The Angry Democrats May Out - Investigate Republicans

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSON

WASHINGTON THE GENTLY cooing notes about harmony and unity which the Democratic leaders have been making should be allowed to fool nobody. The fact is that the Democrats, conservatives and liberals alike, have blood in their eyes.

They were infuriated by the Republican line as it was developed by many Republican orators, notably Vice President Nixon. In the Democratic view, the Democratic party was slandered, if not quite as the party of treason, at least as the party of communism and war.

They are now hanging on to their control of the Senate, the Democrats fully expect to enjoy the sweet taste of revenge. Revenge is to take the form of washing every scrap of Republican dirty linen in the most public possible manner.

ONE: "The numbers racket." The Republicans' campaign use of the firing of "security risks" really got under Democratic skins. More than anything else, it lent a certain air of solid statistical validity to the Republican charges being put forward by the Democrats.

TWO: Dixon- Yates. The Joint Commission on Atomic Energy will put under the microscope the role of the Atomic Energy Commission in the business of the

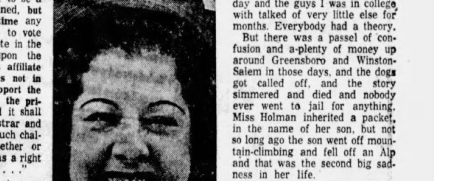
Memories Of N. C. Murder Mystery Are Reawakened

By ROBERT C. RUARK

NEW YORK THE TIME manages to pass. I and I manage to hate its passage, especially when I read that Libby Holman has come back to the stage to sing a little bit, and that Bucky Harris has just gone off from Washington to manage the Detroit Tigers.

Smith had a bosom buddy named Al Walker who spent a lot of time with me. I guess a mess of corn liquor got used over the weekends. One especially riotous weekend young Libby Reynolds managed to get himself shot very dead, and all hell bustled loose.

LIBBY HOLMAN Way Back When



Close friends of GOP Speaker Joe Martin say he would like to step aside as his leadership in the party when Congress convenes in January.

Will Martin Step Down?

Close friends of GOP Speaker Joe Martin say he would like to step aside as his leadership in the party when Congress convenes in January.

However, if Martin steps down as GOP boss in the House of Representatives, it would mean a hot, intra-party battle over his possible successor.

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