

Supports, Like Tariffs, Need Flexibility

S. N. C. commissioner of agriculture, A. L. Y. Ballentine can be expected to stick up for the farmer. This he did, in a speech before Charlotte Kiwanians last week. He based his case on these facts:

Average farm income per agriculture worker in 1952 was \$1,803, while the average wage for industrial workers was \$3,591.

The farmers' share of the consumers' food dollar has dropped from 54 to 44 cents since 1951.

Government losses under the farm price support programs from 1933 to 1953 were slightly more than one billion dollars. But "business reconversion payments (including tax amortizations)" have totaled an estimated 41 billion dollars since 1945.

The annual post office deficit, he observed, amounts to an annual subsidy for some individual publications running into many millions of dollars.

"Let the industrialists consider their position without the benefit of protective tariffs," he said. "Let labor surmise its situation without legislation establishing minimum wages and maximum hours, or without the right to organize and strike for higher wages. Can the airlines give up their mail subsidies? Will certain oil and oil well owners forego their depletion privileges?"

We should ask ourselves whether it is feasible for one segment of our economy to sell its goods and services on a so-called open market subject only to supply and demand, while other groups are enjoying various forms of protection and support.

The commissioner here sets up a straw man. The issue is not open market vs. subsidy for the farmers. The issue is between "high rigid price supports" . . . with production adjustments required to keep supply in line with demand, which he advocates, and flexible price supports which he says would "give speculators the whiphand over farmers . . . fall far short of (their) purpose of balancing supply and demand . . . and have the effect of increasing surpluses instead of diminishing them, by forcing farmers to grow more and more acreage to make up for declining prices."

It is hard to follow the commissioner's reasoning against flexible price supports. There is no reason why production curbs can't be applied to crops under flexible supports as easily as they can be applied to crops under rigid support. If both production curbs and flexible supports are applied then production of surplus commodities will surely decrease.

The high price support program is actually driving many farmers into the open market today, for the simple reason that in some parts of the country storage facilities are glutted, thus the farmer can't get any loan on his crop and has to dump it where and for what he can. Furthermore, the high cost of American farm products is reducing overseas markets. The value of farm commodities shipped overseas in 1952 was 15 per cent less than in 1951, and among them cotton exports were down 24 per cent, leaf tobacco 25 per cent.

And while, as the commissioner said, the price support program costs only a billion or so from 1933 to 1953, the billion figure will be much larger unless some means is found of disposing of billions of dollars worth of agricultural products now on hand.

Certainly, as the commissioner pointed out, various segments of the economy are subsidized and do reduce tariffs to the list. Subsidies are frequently advantageous to the nation and its citizens. But it does not follow that one segment of the economy, agriculture, should be specially favored with high and rigid subsidies. The President and the Tariff Commission could have reduced tariffs when they are found to be so high that they are ruining the domestic trade because a product's market is diminishing. Why not apply this simple business-like rule to agriculture, and reduce its "tariff," i. e., support price, when a price support program is causing a price too high to sell in the world market.

The reason this is not done, we fear, is simply because too many people grasp the politically-popular idea of high and rigid price supports, without stopping to analyze the dangers of this concept, and the benefits to farmers of a flexible price support program.

Faith And The Search For Truth

IN THAT PART of his talk to the Men's Club of the Myers Park Presbyterian Church reprinted elsewhere on this page today, President Gordon Gray of the University of North Carolina gave an eloquent statement of the university administrator's collective responsibilities.

Merely to list them is to be appalled by the weight of responsibility pressing down upon those charged with the duty of keeping "a trust with the past and a trust with the future."

In meeting these responsibilities, the healthy skepticism of the purely intellectual search for truth is not enough. As President Gray said, an individual can be two things at once—an administrator in the field of higher education, and an active churchman and true believer. And there is no conflict between the search for truth and faith.

President Gray quoted Dr. William G. Pollard, the executive director of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies who, after 20 years as a physicist with objective and skeptical views, has been ordained a deacon of the Episcopal Church. Says Dr. Pollard:

"I no longer believe that the approach of size-up-and-solve will produce a formula explaining all natural phenomena. If this sounds like heresy to any of my scientific colleagues, I can only say that the more I have learned of science, the more I have become convinced that the origin of the universe will forever remain a mystery to that person, without violating his intellectual integrity, both thinking within the framework of a Judeo-Christian view and believe all scientific knowledge of the structure of the world. I decided that science was a way of investigating the wonders of the world, and that it could be marvelous unity of a living cell and the intricate combinations of particles that make up matter. That being so, it seemed to me irreligious to oppose the work of science."

So it is, President Gray reminded his audience, that the right kind of atmosphere, "a place of mind and spirit" and that a university as such admits no point of view "in religion, politics, or even disdained items of scholarship." No one directs faculty thinking or student thinking.

Yet the right kind of leadership can feel certain the right kind of atmosphere. And to judge from the figures Gray cited showing the number of administrative officers, faculty members and students at the three branches of the university who regularly participate in organized religious activity, the accusation that university administration is irreligious cannot be fairly made against the Consolidated University of North Carolina.

For that, North Carolinians can be well content.

Flanders Lays It On The Line

RALPH E. FLANDERS is a quiet, friendly 73-year-old New Englander who spent almost 50 years in the machine-tool industry before accepting appointment to the U. S. Senate in 1946. He seldom speaks on the Senate floor—during the first six weeks of this session he took the floor on only three occasions. When he does speak he usually is worth listening to. Never was this so true as it was yesterday.

Sen. Flanders said what other Republican congressmen and administration spokesmen should have been saying all along. It remains to be seen whether other Republicans will have the moral courage to stand with Flanders against this smokescreen effort.

The height of irony was reached the other day when a propaganda outfit sent us some "releases" promoting a set of opinions we oppose and we had to pay "postage due" on the letter.—GREENVILLE (S. C.) P. FLEMING.

Home from Korea, the pilot of a jet bomber showed friends the pictures of a beautiful native lass. "Take a look," he suggested, "at one of my near-Mrs."—FOUR MYRAS (FLA.) NEWS-PRESS.

"The time will come when girls will take this initiative in making marriage proposals," asserts a psychologist. And some of these days birds may learn to fly.—BRISTOL, (TENN.) HERALD-COURIER.

'Yeah, We Really Ought To Do Something About It'



New Columnist For The News

Meet Doris Fleson

DORIS FLESON, well known Washington columnist, will be writing a column for herself and her daughter, now a Vassar graduate.

TIME'S ESTIMATE: Time Magazine in listing 13 Washington writers as the "Core of the Corps," said of Miss Fleson: "Her 'interpretive articles,' as she calls them, make interesting reading, thanks to her well-used pipelines to Congressional offices. She attends no off-the-record conferences, yet frequently knows what the Administration is up to before many of its brass hats."

Regarded as the top "newshen" in Washington and one of the capital's best political reporters, Miss Fleson gets her share of scoops. However, her reputation to assign quote "Time" depends more on her budding reporting of political plots and counterplots. Her pipelines into the (Truman) administration are so well placed that her columns on what the Fair Dealers are thinking often reveal what the Democrats will do long before they are ready to announce it or are quite sure themselves. "Naturally, new pipelines have been laid" since the Republicans have taken over the nation's business, and Miss Fleson's column still is usually a lump ahead of the competition.

Reporter-columnist Fleson gets so much fun out of her job that friends who see her gabbling sometimes wonder when she will work. The answer is: all the time. With a combination of ladylike charm and burning indignation, she manages to like and be liked by almost everybody in the capital.

Honors have piled up on Miss Fleson over the years. She has been awarded the New York Newspaperwoman's Club prize for distinguished reporting. The Independent Editorial Services, Ltd., a privately owned Washington report for editors and other newspaper executives, said: "Miss Fleson is a great success here because she learned the cardinal principles of reporting, such as a profession and never tried to attract attention by co-terminous." Just last year Miss Fleson received the Missouri Honor Award for Distinguished Service in Journalism, at the University of Missouri; honorary degree of Doctor of Literature, Oliver-Stockton Col-

People's Platform Backs Eisenhower Against McCarthy

Mr. Airy, N. C. that President Eisenhower has taken a firm stand against "McCarthyism," and am in complete agreement with the course he is following.

I am especially pleased that he is insisting that members of the executive department called to testify before Congressional committees shall be treated with "respect and courtesy."

But what about private citizens? It would seem that they are entitled to the same protection as members of the executive department. The President's statement seemed to infer that they will continue to be helpless until Congress sees fit to take corrective action.

The American people are with President Eisenhower now and his support will continue to grow as he stands up for progress and "fair play" regardless of political expediency. Party loyalty, a fetish with professional politicians, is of slight importance to the vast majority of the people. In fact, it is definitely objectionable when it demands compromise of high principle.

O. K. MERRITT

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WHEN the Republican Party threw a big chess party for newsmen at the opening of Congress, Joe McCarthy came up to John Foster Dulles, put his arm around his shoulder and said: "Haven't I been a good boy lately?"

What McCarthy referred to was the fact that he had laid off criticisms of the State Department for a few weeks, partly as a result of a compromise agreement patched up with Vice President Nixon in Miami December.

Nixon had urged McCarthy to lay off the witch-hunting and turn the problem over to Sen. Jenner's special Senate Committee where it properly belongs. In turn, Nixon promised that Attorney General Brownell would turn over to McCarthy various cases of alleged graft and inefficiency which, Nixon said would reflect on the Truman administration. Thus McCarthy would continue to get the headlines, though probing something that legitimately came under his government operations committee.

McCarthy agreed. But no sooner had he returned to Washington, and was asked by newsmen about the agreement, than he denied it.

Joe Remains Sweet Despite the denial, however, McCarthy did live up to the agreement for about two weeks. Then quietly he handed Sen. Walker of Idaho, someone called the "Junior McCarthy," a copy of a speech

Democrats Not At All Sure They Want To Win Congress

By DORIS FLEESON

WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATS at this point are confident they will regain control of Congress in the fall elections but many of them believe that result would only serve to strengthen President Eisenhower as a candidate for re-election in 1956.

They reason that a victory in November will give them responsibility without power. They expect that the President would offer them a moderate program they would necessarily support. He would then appear, it is argued, a stronger and more stable President than he looks right now.

Fresh in their memory, too, is what Harry Truman accomplished in 1952 with the Republican-controlled 80th Congress as his whipping boy. Nobody thinks Eisenhower will turn into that type of partner but, of course, a Congress controlled by the opposition would be a made-to-order opponent for his shortcomings.

M'CARTHY AN ASSET

Rather surprisingly some Democrats of proved political perspective became the first woman ever to deliver the principal address during Newspaper Week at that school.

Miss Fleson has recently become a member of the United Feature Syndicate staff and her work is being distributed nationally by that organization. In joining UFS, she said, "The tremendous range of world events makes this new type of reporting imperative."

Because Miss Fleson crowds must face into her credited written stories, other correspondents have called her "the columnist columnist." Whether readers of the News prefer "reporter" or "columnist" or both we are happy to add her column to our list of features.

There is an obligation to the vision of those in 1789 and before who saw the state's duty to its youth and founded the first people's university in America. We must keep faith with them.

PAST AND PRESENT

And finally, there is an obligation to the many thousands of students and faculty members through the years who have left a part of themselves on the campus and helped mold the tradition and the culture, and to those who have exercised the future and who will live in a different world.

This was a trust with the past and a trust with the future.

We as administrators cannot know millions or live centuries or reach into the future. But we can exercise our responsibility for present leadership.

In seeking to exercise a continuing leadership, shall the administrator stand for?

For fairness, when liberalism has become a label.

For justice, when conservatism has become an epithet.

For eternal truth, without flavor.

For freedom to worship, to vote, to move about, to speak one's mind, to own property.

For undying resistance to tyranny of any kind including tyranny over the future.

As you seek leaders who do these things, I will urge that they not give leadership unless they believe in it.

'A Trust With The Past-- A Trust With The Future'

There is an obligation to the vision of those in 1789 and before who saw the state's duty to its youth and founded the first people's university in America. We must keep faith with them.

PAST AND PRESENT

And finally, there is an obligation to the many thousands of students and faculty members through the years who have left a part of themselves on the campus and helped mold the tradition and the culture, and to those who have exercised the future and who will live in a different world.

This was a trust with the past and a trust with the future.

We as administrators cannot know millions or live centuries or reach into the future. But we can exercise our responsibility for present leadership.

In seeking to exercise a continuing leadership, shall the administrator stand for?

For fairness, when liberalism has become a label.

For justice, when conservatism has become an epithet.

For eternal truth, without flavor.

For freedom to worship, to vote, to move about, to speak one's mind, to own property.

For undying resistance to tyranny of any kind including tyranny over the future.

As you seek leaders who do these things, I will urge that they not give leadership unless they believe in it.

Appeasing McCarthy Doesn't Work

Apparatus No. 4—Attorney General Brownell whitewashed the unanimous Senate report on McCarthy's peculiar financial transactions, and his organized report on irregularities in the Maryland elections.

Apparatus No. 5—McCarthy's close friend, Robert E. Lee, was implicated in the Maryland elections, was appointed to the Federal Communication Commission, and two McCarthy men on his key body.

Apparatus No. 6—H. L. Hunt, staunch McCarthy supporter and employer of both Mrs. McCarthy and Robert E. Lee, was given a tax deduction of 20 per cent on contributions to his TV program, "Facts Forum."

Apparatus No. 7—The Army turned over to McCarthy carbon copies of its investigation of Fort Monmouth. This enabled McCarthy to take the Army's reports and the Army's witnesses and stage his own probe, making it appear that he personally had rooted out subversion in the Army.

The other three cases of apparatus involved the Nixon attempt in Miami to "get Joe to be good." Secretary of the Army Stevens' retreat; and the President's own withdrawal from the proposed blast at McCarthy. Immediately following the Stevens' mix-up.

Nevertheless, some White House advisers still think that the present Senator from Wisconsin. And despite a growing group of advisers who tell him to the contrary, the Eisenhower still follows the advice of the former.