

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1955

A Floor For North Carolina Wages

NORTH CAROLINA has a moral responsibility as well as a practical stake in the establishment of a decent minimum wage law. Even the relatively mild 55-cent-per-hour recommendation by Gov. Hodges would help raise the standards of human welfare in the Tar Heel state.

Yet, a 55-cent floor was viewed with suspicion and alarm by some legislators in 1953. Such a measure—backed by Gov. Umstead—got past a barrage of reaction in the Senate but a House committee stopped it cold at a session where no record vote was called for.

The principal trouble with the 1953 bill—and the 1955 proposal of Gov. Hodges—is in the number of exemptions allowed. There is perhaps some justification in exempting people who earn most of their income in tips—bellhops and waitresses, for instance. Even certain agricultural workers who receive

some portion of their pay in rations and quarters might be left outside the act's jurisdiction. However, every effort should be made to keep most of the state's labor force under the law's protection.

Yet, according to reports from Raleigh, fewer than 35,000 people would be covered by the Hodges plan.

North Carolina must have a wage system which will provide reasonable economic security against want and poverty for every worker. This means a minimum, not of subsistence, but of decency. Every member of a modern state has a claim to this protection. It is a fundamental economic right.

Foreign Policy Vs. Good Business

THE President covered a lot of ground in his speech on foreign economic policy. He reiterated, and we are pleased that he did, his request for three-year renewal of presidential authority to negotiate tariff reductions. Tariffs ought to be reduced, and his proposed rate of reduction of not more than five per cent a year is certainly gradual. A three-year program, unlike the one-year extension of reciprocal trade agreements granted by the last Congress, permits traders to do some long-range planning. But we regret that the President did not propose a tightening up of the "escape clause" and quota system which permit American producers to get special protection from foreign exporters who do too good a job of selling in this country.

The President is for more U. S. participation in international trade fairs, more convertibility of currency and continued participation in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, through which trade barriers are reduced. This is all to the good. He would encourage international travel—one way he could do this would be by changing some of the restrictive policies of the U. S. government. He favors technical assistance to underdeveloped areas. He would facilitate the investment of capital abroad by taxing "business income from foreign subsidiaries or branches at a rate 14 percentage points lower than the corporate rate on domestic income and a deferral of tax on income of foreign branches until it is removed from the country where it is earned" and also "encourage a climate favorable to the private enterprise concept in investment" through diplomatic representa-

tives abroad. Those are points that want some elaboration.

Popular in Washington and various editorial offices is a fuzzy concept of foreign economic policy which holds that what is good for American business overseas is good for American foreign policy. That is not necessarily true, and frequently it is utterly false. American business overseas to make money. It is not concerned with land reform or native industrial development. Often these developments would be detrimental to American business. Certainly, one can point to U. S. businesses which have done a great deal for citizens of foreign countries. But the popular attitude expressed by Secretary of the Treasury Humphries, "I was a young millionaire—then, when the window dressing is removed, advocacy of colonialism and exploitation. And they, remember, are what communism feeds upon."

In other words, short-term gains for American business overseas can result in long-term losses for U. S. foreign policy. Trade and overseas investment are fine. We're for them. But not at the expense of foreign policy aims with which they sometimes clash.

If this nation can withhold aid to other countries because they trade with the enemy, or don't unite, or are too far to the left, it can make aid contingent upon development of land reform programs and other measures which will truly steal the thunder from the Communists and serve the interests of U. S. foreign policy. Therein lies the issue, and it had best be resolved in favor of the nation as a whole.

Some Gold Stars For An Old Warrior

FEW South Carolinians since John C. Calhoun have had a greater impact on the U. S. political scene than James F. Byrnes. Perhaps his career has not been filled with as much sound and fury as "Pitchfork Ben" Tillman, Cole Blease or "Cotton Ed" Smith produced but the range of his public service has been greater and so has his influence.

Opponents like to damn him, however, for what they call the "militant negativism" he has practiced since returning home to be governor. He has been described as a bitter old warrior who finds comfort only in dissent.

The picture is not entirely accurate. When Mr. Byrnes steps down as South Carolina's chief executive next Tuesday he will leave behind some particularly worthwhile achievements in his four-year record.

The most important advances of his administration have been in the field of education. In the light of South Carolina's threat to abandon its public school system rather than submit to integration of the races, this fact is especially interesting.

The Supreme Court segregation decision "shocked" Mr. Byrnes and left South Carolina deeply troubled. But instead of sulking in the corner and disorganizing plans for needed school improvements, the Byrnes administration continued its ambitious expansion program.

Since the governor took office in 1951, an educational revolution has taken place in the Palmetto state. A consolidation program has eliminated 824 inferior schools in rural areas. Many new schools have been built. Bus transportation systems have been expanded. State aid to teachers' salaries has been increased 43 per cent.

Significantly, Negro schools have received two-thirds of the funds allocated by the state for buildings. When the buildings already approved for Negro pupils have been constructed, their facilities will be substantially equal to those for white pupils, says the governor.

It is a notable record of accomplishment for Mr. Byrnes and for South Carolina.

From The Louisville Times

YANKS AND BRITONS BREAK BREAD

THE quiet words of friendship sometimes gets drowned out in the roar of world affairs. Such a note is heard in a little story from London. It tells how the U. S. Air Force has had to advise British families not to bother with any more Christmas cards or letters to American airmen. "We appreciate the thought," a spokesman says, "but we have had so many offers of Christmas hospitality that we haven't got enough lonely men to go around."

The same courtesy extended in Britain even in the bleak and austere Christmas season in 1942. At that low point in the war, U. S. Navy headquarters in London had twice as many invitations from British families as did officers and men to fill them. It was the same with the other American services. The hospitality offered ran from a Christmas dinner to a long weekend. Invitations came from storied castles in the shires and from modest flats on the outer fringes of London.

were allowed when they were available. A pat of butter, an American is used to melting into one baked potato was a week's supply for a British citizen.

Christmas entertaining is not organized goodwill. It is not even a conscious effort to foster British-American relations. It is simply an outpouring of traditional hospitality toward the stranger within the gates, and of personal good feeling toward young men far from home.

Such efforts do not attract as much attention as a single sharp exchange of criticism between a British and an American politician. But they are the foundation stones of an alliance between two nations on which the whole free world depends.

United States naval fighting strength is put at a comfortable 5,000 ships. Handy for ferry service, too, in the district when nobody's mad.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

There's the girl who doesn't think of men very often, but when she thinks, she thinks of men.—CARLSBAD (N. M.) CURRENT-ARGUS.

Culture: Is It Really The Community's Responsibility?

By KERMIT HUNTER

Editors' Note: This analysis of a community's cultural needs was condensed from a talk by Mr. Hunter, Chapel Hill playwright, at the Piedmont Area Conference in Winston-Salem.

WHY should a community be interested in the cultural arts? We can all think of a hundred good reasons, but altogether we can group these reasons perhaps under three major headings. Let us look first at the simple matter of pleasure and entertainment.

What do we do these days in America when we are not working? Mainly, we sit. Movies, radio, television, theater, sports events—we are a nation of watchers and lookers. Fred Allen suggested that television represents the triumph of equipment over people, that the next generation will have eyes like cat-loupes and no brains at all. But we need not take out our spile on television; we must take

it out on ourselves for becoming a race of lazy lookers who demand entertainment at an ever-increasing tempo. No one can deny that a generation or two more of this sit-and-look kind of entertainment will have a profound effect on the creative energies of our people. Gradually, I reach the point where we accept whatever—and all—that "they" (whoever they may be) put before us. We lose taste, discrimination, and inspiration—and we come to think in terms of what someone else suggests.

Then why do we stop this eternal sideline existence and get out on the playing field? Simply because we have not taken the time or the effort to set up the means for it.

ONE SOLUTION
 One very plausible solution lies in the local arts council. And it does not mean the building that sits somewhere on a local street. I mean the ideals behind it, the

knowledge that whatever we want to do is potentially available there. If we will make it so. You want to write? Then insist that the arts council stage seminars and conferences in creative writing and bring in guest experts to discuss it with you. You want to paint? Then get some brushes and paints and start painting, then see to it that the arts council has someone to criticize and help you. You like the idea of making little bronzes in glazed pottery or enameled copper? Then get the arts council to do something about it.

All this leads, of course, to the creating of opportunities for active participation, the opening of new fields of interest, with the final result that we have six hobbies instead of one or two, hobbies in which we are taking an active part. Suddenly we find ourselves busy, but in a different way: not the busy-ness of tension and strain, but the busy-ness of entertaining pursuits, hobbies that fascinate and occupy the mind and soul.

KERMIT HUNTER
 The End Is Truth



"You don't want to grow up to be a scientist . . . think of all the investigations and probes, wouldn't you like to be a fireman?"

Soldier's Pay More Money And More Privileges

By ROBERT C. RUARK

SOLDIER'S pay is an expression of the respect that we have for the man in service from preference. Mansfield's idea for monetary implementation would be, as an alternative, to surtax companies profiting from defense contracts a touch extra, which naturally fetched a howl.

LEARN AND QUIT
 Where we've missed it before is that we slow any amount of money teaching a man the necessary skills of soldierly and then he quits his country for a hike in pay after learning his know-how at government expense. This is especially true of officers, because officers have to eat as well as enlisted men, and are required to eat a little higher on the hog.

The way it works today, a general makes about as much money as a press agent for a small advertising agency. We have taken away all the special attractive things, such as the income-tax exemptions, some commissary and post-exchange, and a few more. A voluntary retirement and promotion aids, some cheaper booze and better quarters. And a guy says the hell with it. I will take my know-how and sell it elsewhere, so the kids can eat a bit better.

BIG RESPONSIBILITY
 This is ridiculous when you consider a wing commander of a bomber outfit is responsible for hundreds of millions of public money, and the sergeant who looks after his maintenance is responsible for the wing commander, and possibly the fate of the world. The skipper of a destroyer escort is as important as the president of a million-dollar business, and a second lieutenant of infantry has more responsibility than a Cabinet member, when you need him.

I am for giving them all more dough and more privileges, in the old meaning of soldier's pay. After all the only thing they are supposed to do for their country is work hard in order to learn how to die—and that is worth more to us than a TV comedian's new contract.



How Much Is He Worth?

No New Faces

By MARQUIS CHILDS

AS a "team player" President Eisenhower has in recent weeks resisted very great pressure to make major changes in his staff and in the Cabinet. Short of death or voluntary resignations, the President now seems certain to go through the last two years of his term with virtually the same team as in the first two years.

The greatest pressure was concentrated on Sherman Adams, assistant to the President. His critics who are numerous and sometimes outspoken, believed at one point that he would be replaced. Their complaints have centered on the alleged wall which Adams has put between them and the President.

Adams who served one term in the House before becoming governor of New Hampshire, is a tactician. New Englander who believes the President should be spared as many burdens as possible in the grueling office of the presidency. The President, himself a willing and agreeable man who likes to please all whom he can, is said to value Adams' capacity for saying no.

As for the Cabinet, there are as of now no changes in sight.

Adams's Varsity Is Set

Some close to the President have hinted that Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay is a disconcerting factor in the shake of his hobbies in the campaign of last fall. McKay campaigned for two weeks last fall in his home state of Oregon for a veteran Republican Sen. Guy Cordon. Cordon was defeated by a narrow margin by Democrat, Richard L. Neuberger.

In the words of the team members, it all comes down to the loyalty and confidence of their chief. He is a very familiar face around him and he believes that the shakedown cruise of the first two years has demonstrated the effectiveness of his staff. So, short of some unexpected happening, the administration will have very little to do. It took it has had from the L. Ginning.

Quote, Unquote

In a Michigan divorce case the judge ruled that the parent getting custody of the children should also get the TV set. Evidently the jurist wanted to disrupt the lives of the kids as little as possible.—New Orleans States.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

PUGNACIOUS Sen. Herman Welker of Idaho and handsome Sen. George Smathers of Florida returned on the same boat together from South America after a long trip to a fair.

Welker, sometimes called the "Junior Sen. McCarthy" and whose picture is currently featured on the cover of *Life*, was sore as a bull over the Senate vote to censure his friend from Wisconsin. All during the voyage he was loud and raucous in his defense of McCarthy and his castigation of Joe's critics. He especially lambasted Smathers on the fact that the Democrats voted in a bloc against McCarthy.

I understand that you people decided to make it unanimous at a secret session. Welker chided his Democratic colleague from Florida.

Smathers denied this, said the Democrats voted their own convictions. "Ha ha ha!" laughed the Idaho senator sarcastically. "How do you know

Senators Near Fistfight Over McCarthy

they didn't have a secret caucus, since you were in South America at the time?"

Smathers replied that he was sure of it because he knew how the Democrats operated, and he was certain no secret caucus had been called.

"Are you calling me a liar?" snarled Welker.

By this time the conversation had become loud and bitter. Abruptly Welker squared off ready to fight. Smathers squared off, too, but Sen. Andrew Schepel of Kansas stepped in. The two men separated.

Joe's Last Report

Sen. McCarthy won't like it, but this column is scooping him on his final report as chairman of the Government Operations Committee.

Though McCarthy hit the headlines almost every day of his career as chairman, his report is as dull as lead. Obviously his fair for the spotlight is considerably greater than his desire to

make a constructive record of his committee's accomplishments. The report also shows that McCarthy devoted scant time to his overall committee, chiefly concentrated on his subcommittee on Communism.

Portions of his report are so abrupt and deadpan as to be amusing. For instance, his only mention of the famous Army-McCarthy hearings, which absorbed the nation for weeks, is a complaint over the cost.

Hawaiian Recreation

Aside from this, the final McCarthy report is a list of miscellaneous subjects including money spent on bathing beaches and recreation in Hawaii by the armed forces. Joe's sleuth went out to probe the question of whether servicemen's recreation was "involving an unnecessary investment in (recreational) property valued at in excess of \$22 million and annual expenditures of approximately \$4 million."

Probe Of Panama Canal

The report also reveals a backstage battle with the Panama Canal Company, which made the mistake of flouting McCarthy's committee. As a result, Joe sided his bloodhounds on the company.

The staff promptly uncovered "major deficiencies in organization, management and responsibility. Inadequacy of planning and policymaking, and unwarranted domination of the secretary of the Army and the military establishment over the Panama Canal enterprise."