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North Carolina Must Meet Problems Of A Growing And Dynamic Society

THE novelties is over for Luther Hart- well Hodges. The problems facing the state have suddenly been brought into sharp focus.

The message Mr. Hodges read to the General Assembly yesterday demonstrated the firm grasp North Carolina's new chief executive has on the tiller.

It was a document of considerable scope, ranging the whole field of state needs and responsibilities from finances to segregation. It was bold, specific, positive.

In addition, it was a message of confidence and faith in the ability of North Carolina to meet the sort of tough problems that are expected to arise in a growing and dynamic society.

Much of the governor's program was enthusiastically endorsed in a few thousand words he itemized a whole series of badly needed improvements.

On the statewide liquor referendum, we emphatically disagree with the governor. As The News has said before, this decision properly belongs in the hands of the counties.

In the governor's request for legislation giving local school boards authority over enrollment and assignment of children in public schools, we find some merit.

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Safeguards might be necessary, however, so that the rule on admissions will produce not a system which permits some localities to deny constitutional rights while others do not, but a system which permits a variance in the remedial period for adjustments to the court's redefinition of constitutional rights.

In general, the governor has spelled out a progressive, forward-looking program for North Carolina. We hope that a good part of his recommendations will be favorably received by legislators.

Ike's Journey Down The Center Line

IN BROAD objectives, the Eisenhower program for 1955 is not different from the Eisenhower program for 1954. The President's State of the Union message yesterday contained no surprises.

He rang no alarms, voiced no threats, invented no slogans, unveiled no important proposals that had not already been announced by the White House or disclosed by other sources.

much be geographical variations in the approach to the problem of desegregation and in the timing of appropriate measures. North Carolina's Negro population varies widely in density throughout the state.

It is the opinion of some authorities that discretion can legally be vested in local school authorities to devise, initially, appropriate school designation methods.

Beyond question a state need not provide for territorial uniformity in methods of governing every locality within its borders. Some cities or counties may be accorded different powers than others, or all may be accorded optional choice of alternative methods of governing.

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revenue by abolishing many of the exemptions to the sales tax law. Instead of taxing only farmers, and certain taxes on tobacco and liquor, which are already taxed considerably by the federal government.

We realize that strong cases can be made for some of the sales tax exemptions. But—merely by stopping up some loopholes—the legislature can raise the needed revenue.

Compared with other states, North Carolina has an extremely large number (more than 30) of sales tax exemptions. They include sales by manufacturers, mill machinery, products of farms, gasoline, fuels to farmers, fertilizer, sales to state or local governments, sales prohibited from taxation under the constitution, school books, Bibles, food, medicines, cotton, tobacco, peanuts, horses, mules, sales to charitable and non-profit institutions, and sales of antiseptics.

We would rather tax tobacco, soft drinks and liquor than that see food and medicine removed from sales tax exemptions. But a number of these exemptions can be allowed to stand and the needed revenue can still be raised. Several years ago, revenue commissioner Eugene Shaw made a sweeping survey of the sales tax. He concluded that three broad categories of exemptions could be continued and the state could still, by abolishing other exemptions, raise an additional \$22 million a year.

The additional taxes proposed by the governor and his commission may have to be enacted before long, because of the state's desperate need for new revenue. But priority, in our opinion, should be given to a sweeping revision of the sales tax law.

Tell Me, Mr. Attorney...! And Then The Fun Begins

By MORRIS L. ERNST In Harper's

IT SELDOM happens during the first half-hour of the dinner party. The cocktails are being served and the conversation centers around last night's opening.

"Well," continues Mrs. Gibson. "I have a lease for two years on an apartment..." "That dates the dinner party really. It is taking place sometime during the months of August, September, or October when rent and tenancy problems are rife. In fact, so constant is the stream of them that I have determined in the future to install an efficiency system. To all introductions between September 3 and 30 I intend henceforward to reply, 'We've died to meet you. Did you bring your lease with you?'"

"WHAT SHALL I DO?" "After the rental and renewal-of-lease season we slide quickly into the income-tax season. The kindly old professor leans across the table and says softly, 'What shall I do? I have never filed an income-tax return for the state of New York. Each year I am afraid to start because they may catch me up for failing to file in previous years.'" "The attractive girl next seat at lunch asks hopefully, 'Can I deduct car fares and entertainment from the fee I take in?'"

"Almost as soon as the income-tax season is over the wanderlust season has begun, sometime around the end of March there is a new quickening of interest in the quaint state of Nevada and romantic Mexico. Although the vast majority of them come to naught,

in the spring men's (and women's) fancies seem to turn towards thoughts of divorce. Every day in April I am supposed to know the exact length of residence required for a divorce in every state of the union, the admissible charges in each, the costs, and such specific details as: "What will happen to the children?" "Can I fix the alimony by separate agreement?"

NO BARRIERS There is no safe place for a lawyer. Symptoms of legal diseases can be trotted out anywhere, at any time, and is often difficult, at a social gathering or in a public place, to display a sore toe or an infected tonsil for gratuitous medical advice. But difficulties arise over a bonus check can pass all barriers.

A short while ago I was coming back from Washington on the Congressional Limited. In the club car men were crying out their simple, obscure solutions for the United States of America. Suddenly the man near the window perked up and shot me a look that meant trouble. He had spotted an attorney.

Manufacturers' conversations with lawyers usually begin, "You know, Mr. Ernst, there are too many laws. Don't you honestly think that all these laws about fireproof exits and a bench for every woman and special working hours for women are going to break down all industry? What should I do about that fireproof door? I got a summons to appear in court tomorrow..." From this point on there's no stopping



There is No Safe Place For A Lawyer

the requests for advice on how to break health, fire, employment, and tenement-house laws. GLOW OF PLEASURE I assure the reader that in this plaint there is no exaggeration. Yet I confess that in my particular I have not been strictly honest: the truth is that lawyers love being asked anything, by anyone, at any time. Seldom is advice given, seldom still is the advice worth anything, and most seldom of all is it followed. All the same, each individual request for it is followed by the same secret glow of pleasure in the lawyer's breast.

To be asked for advice and to accept confessions are the two most flattering occupations of man, and the lawyer is constantly treated to both. Many business men pull him into a corner and whisper their most recent business follies. Foolish married women report their indiscretions—

not directly, of course, but as curious episodes that happened years ago to remote acquaintances. This ruse might deceive other listeners, but the lawyer has heard so many case histories that he recognizes the truth at once. This adds to his feeling of superiority and disconcerts the client.

ASK THE EXPERTS It is also true that not only lawyers, but all professional men, suffer from the same onslaught by the general public—and, no doubt, share its gratifications. There are a number of human beings who cannot resist getting advice from every expert they meet. An outstanding example of this species, a friend of mine, is one of the most lovable theatrical producers in New York.

Introduced to a Dr. Smith, immediately my friend's hand slid to his back and he asked the doctor to do for him a slight case of lumbago. With some diffidence Dr. Smith explained that he was not an M. D. but a doctor of economics.

"Ah," said my friend, unashamed, "tell me, will General Motors stock go up with Wilson in the Cabinet?" In less than five minutes the conversation had been steered into a hot debate over inheritance taxes. From around the foul-smelling cigar which never left

his lips came the declaration: "It's a cinch to beat inheritance laws by getting your lawyer to fix you up with a trust my lawyer traced me up one and told me I could smash it any time I wanted and even sue the government. I might get a nickel out of my estate." The cigar tilted sharply in my direction like a ten-inch battleship gun. "You know all about those stunts, don't you?"

'GOOD ADVICE' I was weary of legal talk. I was weary of a said, "I guess you got good advice."

"That didn't stop him. That never stops them. No client is ever entirely secure in his advice. Every client wants free confirmation from the rest of the profession. And my questions sought to get just that, all the way from Wilmington to North Philadelphia, by a long and tedious discussion of those tedious trusts he had set up.

You never know what you're getting into. One night I ate I went into my delicatessen on Sixth Avenue to buy a ham sandwich. There was Max with his knife and apron. Spreading the mustard deliberately he observed, "You're a member of the State Banking Board."

"How did you unearth that secret scandal?" I responded lightly.

QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS "I saw your picture in the paper. Look, Mr. Ernst, you know I didn't bought some of that stock of the bank that busted and now they're suing me. Tell me, why didn't they tell me I was a member of the State Banking Board? I collected that \$3,000 again! I paid once, you know. They handed me a summons. What should I do?"

At a lawyer's dinner I might have plunged into the problem of double liability on bank stock and technical defenses based on equitable ownership. Over a snack at midnight I couldn't face it. I pleaded exhaustion and fled.

At a garage or filling station a lawyer is expected to know every single rule of the road throughout every state. The barber shop he'd better be quick on advice about losses on book-making for horse racing. And if he's controlled by a manufacturer, he should run not walk to the nearest exit.

Care To Start Making Changes Here?



People's Platform

Is The State A Partner In Crime?

Charlotte, N.C.

Editors, The News: THAT the quality of society and permanence of government depend upon good citizenship is a truism which, if good citizenship is the support of state and society, had citizenship is destructive thereof and inevitably its elimination is a public duty and function of the state.

It is not self evident that the hiring of a prisoner for profit does not conduce to improvement of moral responsibility nor add to a sense of public duty, and may, if substituted for a policy of reformation and rehabilitation tend to annul the essential policy of the state in its own interest. The sole incentive to a policy of reformation and rehabilitation by the state of the weak and wayward, would be primarily only a policy, a policy is incorporeal and who could estimate the cost of an ideal—a principle, before its inception? To say that transfer of the prison system from Highway Department would cost the state 30 million dollars in taking figures out of the air. Such could be only to use as a bugaboo to scare tax payers. The original appropriation made to Highway Department to clean highways could,

and should, stand. It could then be used to employ free labor at good wages which would add to public welfare employment, and public tranquility.

At present this labor is done by prisoners who are transported from the state from camp to camp, some of which are hundreds of miles apart. Who could say that constant, scientifically administered would not save millions to the state? Is a study of that prospect by the present legislators worth while? Or, shall our faith in good faith and humanity pale before the clouds of pessimism that prospect of financial loss? It seems to this writer that the responsibility of society to afford a member of society a chance for reformation is an assumption, a fact just as gravitation is a fact. If that is true the fact can not be obliterated nor society's duty effaced.

Vast progress is made in chemistry, mechanics and government and that by the present legislative system, are we still travelling on the old dirt road marked out during the ages of illiteracy and superstition? —HOYT EAVES,

Photography

The Self-Conscious Art

By E. B. WHITE

In "The Second Tree From The Corner"

PHOTOGRAPHY is the most self-conscious of the arts. The art of photography has been glorified in the newspaper magazines, but the lawyer is constantly treated to both. Many business men pull him into a corner and whisper their most recent business follies. Foolish married women report their indiscretions—

not directly, of course, but as curious episodes that happened years ago to remote acquaintances. This ruse might deceive other listeners, but the lawyer has heard so many case histories that he recognizes the truth at once. This adds to his feeling of superiority and disconcerts the client.

At a garage or filling station a lawyer is expected to know every single rule of the road throughout every state. The barber shop he'd better be quick on advice about losses on book-making for horse racing. And if he's controlled by a manufacturer, he should run not walk to the nearest exit.

Quote, Unquote

Being run down by gossip and a car are much the same. A lot of writing is a manufacturer. The horse and aim of a word-handler that he may communicate a thought or an impression to his reader without the aid of a manufacturer. The horse and aim of a word-handler that he may communicate a thought or an impression to his reader without the aid of a manufacturer. The horse and aim of a word-handler that he may communicate a thought or an impression to his reader without the aid of a manufacturer.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON

A former California judge committed suicide the other day leaving a note which points to the name of another Kefauver crime investigation. Such an investigation is not likely to take place, for the reason that Kefauver, who is now in California, would want to give the lanky senator from Tennessee another sounding board which might boost him toward the presidency. However, there is the amazing story of what is happening in the world of big liquor, big lobbying and big politics in California.

Lobbies Play The Field In California

Despise this, the big lobbying job he did for the lobbying liquor industry continued. The beer barons and whiskey moguls merely owned licenses. They continued to operate a huge slush fund to elect politicians, influence legislators and dominate the state of California. Ex-Justice Leonard Wilson, who committed suicide last month, was a director of the slush fund, officially known as the "Spirits Foundation."

Before he committed suicide, Judge Wilson had gone to see Attorney General Pat Brown, to whom he made some amazing revelations regarding payoffs and backstage operations inside the liquor cabal.

Who Got The Money

Partly as a result, a San Diego grand jury has subpoenaed the books of the liquor-lobbying "Spirits Foundation." And there are some interesting payments. Here are some of them: To Godwin Knight, now governor,

then lieutenant governor—a campaign contribution of \$1,000. To the Gov. Knight Dinner Committee, Feb. 11, 1953—\$2,500. To Fred Hower, then attorney general of California and the man who sued me for libel when I accused him of taking a bribe from a liquor lobbyist—the truth—\$5,000.

To the Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner, 1954—\$5,000. To the Civic Research Press—\$3,000. (This was the organization which published "Billion Dollar Blackback," the book by William Bonelli, then head of the Equalization Board and the official whose job it was to pass on licenses to the liquor industry.) In other words, the liquor lobby played the field. They supported Democrats and Republicans alike. And it was significant that the check to the Democratic dinner bore a notation at

the bottom, "B. P. Calhoun-Bonelli." Calhoun was the secretary of the liquor slush fund; while Bonelli, as above noted, was the elected officer of the state of California supposed to be impartial in handing out liquor licenses, yet who was playing ball with the liquor lobby. Bonelli's signature after the liquor lobby had contributed \$5,000 to the Democrats that Bonelli received from the Democratic Party's endorsement. Heriberto has been a Republican.