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Riding A Money-Go-Round Too Far

BY INCREASING income taxes now, North Carolina would be applying fiscal brakes that could hold back the state's economic growth for years. At the very time when all Dixie is striving mightily to attract new industry and new capital, Tar Heel communities would be saddled with a monstrous handicap.

North Carolina's income taxes are already among the highest of any state in the nation. This is no time to push them higher.

But that is just what Sen. Robert Morgan of Harnett proposes. He has introduced a bill in the General Assembly to boost the income tax in all brackets by 1 per cent. The change would affect both individuals and corporations.

The state income tax range is now from 3 to 7 per cent. Sen. Morgan would make it 4 to 8 per cent.

A similar measure has been introduced in the House.

Visiting industrialists are already concerned about Tar Heel taxes. Nudging them farther up the ladder would surely eliminate North Carolina from the lists of many prospective investors.

The possible chain reaction from such a move is frightenuing to consider. By driving away new industry the state would, in effect, be denying jobs at home to its youth and driving per capita income even lower than it is today.

One per cent may sound like chicken feed. It is not. In 1953, the state had 12,374 domestic and foreign corporations. Applying the 1 per cent increase on taxable income in excess of $25,000 alone for the 1952 income year, the average increase in cost to corporations in the highest brackets would have been $24,720.

We realize that members of the 1955 General Assembly are reaching the frantic stage in the search for new sources of revenue. But when they turn to the state income tax system they are clearly in the wrong pew. If legislators have the best interests of the state's expanding industrial economy at heart they will think of something else.

Bubbling Pots & Political Maturity

THE U. S. public has not heard the last of Democratic proposals for a $20 federal income tax reduction. That old witch, Politics, will keep the pot boiling.

Despite what Carolina senators said, the issue was not simply the easing of the burden for low-bracketed taxpayers who, goodness knows, are entitled to relief. It was, instead, the embarrassment of the Eisenhower administration. Democratic politicians—including Sens. Scott and Johnson—undertook this project cheerfully, even though it meant putting the U. S. Treasury in a hole too.

Sens. Ervin and Thurmond, it is true, voted against the bill that would have granted a tax cut without any compensating revenue. But all four Carolinians in the Senate voted together for the earlier and more important Democratic substitute. In so doing, they gave little evidence of political restraint or political maturity. They simply followed the strategy of the Democratic high command.

The Choke, The Gurgle & The Sob

THE word is out and it's official: Singing is passe in U. S. show business.

You just can't make a living off your larynx with a simple do-re-mi approach any more.

A wiggle, a dimple or a plunging neckline isn't enough either. "To be a singer," says a New York music publishing house, "you need to have a new sound."

The firm promptly documents this artistic advice with a quote from Phil Moore, noted vocal coach who has groomed many a canary for a gilded cage. Says he: "Bend a note, hold it too long, fall off it, slur it, grind your teeth, sob, snort, plead, whisper—do anything—but don't be perfect!"

Flick on the television set or your radio and note how fast the Moore method is catching on. It's frightening. Take the youngster on a leading video variety show the other night who was batting out "You'll Never Walk Alone" at the top of his lungs. In the last few bars he all but strangled. "Never" came out, with compelling urgency, "eh-eh-eheheh!"

Of course, he was only accomplishing what Mr. Moore advocates—"the new sound." The choke.

In fact, the choke fits nicely into Mr. Moore's category of bends, holds, falls, slurs, grinds, sobs, shouts, pleadings and whisperings. And let's not overlook the howl. This was born of the sufferings of a sweet young thing who bawls out "Let Me Go, Lover" as if "Lover" were a 1,245-pound snapping turtle.

The hiccup, too, has taken a proud place among the new sounds. A sister team, by artificially inducing a spasmodic inspiration of air through closure of the glottis, has made "No More" come out something like "Nuh-oh Muh-oh." A disconcerting effect if we've ever heard one.

There is virtually no end though to what can be accomplished. Dozens of "new sounds" are just itching to be discovered. Take the snort, for instance. And the snore—just the thing for Brahms' "Lullaby." And the squeak and the squawk, and the grunt and the groan. Even the burp.

One of these days, some alert and enterprising young fellow will purposely step on a pin cushion and transcribe his oral reaction into song.

He'll make a fortune.

Control

SEEMS we read somewhere that an enlightened population is the surest guarantee against harmful legislation.

In a recent man-on-the-street interview about North Carolina's milk price bill, the only passers-by who were for it said that they thought that the price of milk ought to be controlled because milk is a household necessity.

Little did they reck that it was going to be controlled upward.

From The Greensboro Daily News

AMERICA AS OTHERS SEE HER

EVANGELIST Billy Graham says that America ought to do something about the bad and false impression many foreigners have of her. The general picture of America abroad, he contends, as fostered by the press, tourists and moving pictures, is that of a land of murder, crime, violence, sexual excesses, and general immorality.

The criticism is, we think, by and large correct. The press by its nature is concerned with the spectacular; the worse part of the press plays it up unconscionably; the better part keeps it in proper proportion. Tourists, on the loose in foreign lands, are likely to look worse and do worse than if they were at home. The moving pictures revel in crime and luxurious living; nobody would claim that they present a balanced or accurate reflection of American life. If foreigners take these things seriously, it is no wonder that they think of America as a country where the cities are attacked by gangsters within and Indians without, or the South as a region where the magnolia tree grows equipped with a noose for the lynching party.

Another medium which makes for confusion is literature. The South has been the chief victim of this abroad. "Everybody," as the late James Street said, "is interested in sin, sex and the South." When a writer such as Erskine Caldwell, skillfully combines these elements in his writings, his sales soar in the multimillions. So an essentially false and defamatory picture of the South circles the globe; your Englishman believes that no Negro in the South dares look a white man in the face, and your Hindu is convinced that lynchings are almost as prevalent as soft drinks.

What can be done about it? The answer does not lie in banning or suppressing the "hot" stuff. The problem is tougher than that. The solution lies rather in substituting fact for fantasy, the true picture for the false one. A lie may have a gaudy glitter that takes the eye, but the truth has more staying power.

There are books which tell the truth about the South, and it is to America's interest to encourage their circulation abroad, if only as a counterweight to mendacity. Half a dozen that come to mind, out of a large number, are:

RED HILLS AND COTTON by Ben Robertson.

JOHN BROWN'S BODY by Stephen Vincent Benet.

THE MIND OF THE SOUTH by W. J. Cash.

THE SOUTH IN AMERICAN LITERATURE by Jay B. Hubbell.

NO DAY OF TRIUMPH by J. Sanders Redding.

A SOUTHERNER DISCOVERS THE SOUTH by Jonathan Daniels.

America is in a strange position. She needs to convince the world that she is not as indecently glamorous as she has painted herself. The truth is that she is a nice girl who has "made herself up" to look like a streetwalker.

"I'm ashamed of the way we live," the wife said to her indolent husband. "Mother pays our rent. Auntie buys our clothes. And my sister sends us money for food." "You ought to be ashamed," the husband replied. "You've got two uncles who don't send us a nickel."
—MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR.

Overheard from a high school courting couple: Gal—"If you had to choose between marrying for love or for money which one would you choose." Boy—(pessimistically) "probably for love, I guess. I always do the wrong thing."
—HIGH POINT ENTERPRISE.

'First Things First'

College Editors Speak

Students View Segregation

SEVEN of nine editors of southern college newspapers agree that race segregation is on its way out in higher education.

The University of North Carolina's Daily Tar Heel says most Chapel Hill people believe desegregation will be "no problem when it comes." An Alabama paper sees an end to racial bars "sooner than most care to think." A Georgia editor says his campus is "not ready now."

These are some of the highlights from a roundup of opinion by the Florida Flambeau, Florida State University, as reprinted in New South.

A school-by-school breakdown follows:

DAILY TAR HEEL
U. N. C.

It has been pretty quiet here since May 17. . .What has been said has been in favor of quick integration of Negroes into the university, and almost everyone in Chapel Hill agrees that desegregation will be no problem when it comes—whether that is next week or five years away.

At the National Student Association meeting in Ames, Ia., last August, it was a University of North Carolina delegate who introduced a resolution condemning college segregation. A small group of students is now actively at work on the campus with the avowed purpose of working quietly to bring undergraduate segregation to an end before the Supreme Court does it legally.

RED & BLACK
U. Of Ga.

I think I am safe in saying that the majority of us would be opposed to admitting Negroes at this time because of trouble that might develop.

Because of our backgrounds, we simply are not ready now for such a change . . . but I will say that most of the students with whom I have discussed segregation are of the opinion that segregation cannot and will not continue indefinitely in Georgia or any other state.

CRIMSON-WHITE
U. Of Ala.

In an effort to maintain segregation the people of two states have voted to decide whether their school systems will be public or private. But the color line will disappear. The Supreme Court has said so.

The colored people will be admitted to the university as students sooner than most care to think. If it must come, gradual integration is to be desired rather than a sudden flux.

THE ALLIGATOR
U. Of Fla.

Neither side will admit that there must be a middle ground—a compromise—before the question will ever resolve itself. . .It is just as naive in today's thinking to assume that the Negro has an equal opportunity as it is to believe that the mores of a people may be changed overnight.

Time and patience must be the tools with which we solve the most important issue of our day.

ORANGE & WHITE
U. Of Tenn.

U-T students voiced their opinion in a sample poll last spring to the booming majority of 4 to 1 in favor of the action taken by the Supreme Court. They seemed to think that it was the only way the question could lawfully and rightfully be decided.

Most of us here are proud of the fact that our State Legislature has not been trying to find some or any kind of legal way to keep from admitting colored students to any of our schools.

THE HURRICANE
U. Of Miami

Our campus newspaper has been flooded with letters for the past six weeks concerning segregation, such discriminatory policies which are now being practiced at a great many institutions in the country.

The general feeling at this university of those who have expressed themselves is "hang the law, let's see some action."

REFLECTOR
Miss. St. College

It is apparent that unless some drastic action is taken by the Supreme Court, the Legislature, or the people, then integration will take place in this state within 20, 30, 40 or 50 years.

However, it is our opinion that this integration, if it is to be made, must be made on a gradual basis. It is also our opinion that the Supreme Court seriously hurt the chances of integration by its decree coming so unexpectedly and forcibly.

THE WHEEL
Emory U.

Many people agree that segregation is on the rocks and must fall, but with a logic which escapes me, these people often continue to man the pumps of segregation even when the boilers have exploded and the ship is on its way down.

It is the opinion of the Wheel then that the private schools, especially those with a record of open-minded thought, should lead the way in integration; for it is here that the least trouble would be encountered.

DAILY TEXAN
U. Of Tex.

The attitude the students have taken is progressive. . . There are students who take the narrow point of view and turn neither to the right nor the left. But there are more who realize the inequality of the schooling of their fellow men and are made uncomfortable and dissatisfied by it.

Most of them realize that segregation is on the way out, and are thinking about the easiest way to uproot the old southern educational mores.

An Atomic War For Coastal Islands Is 'Clear Possibility'

By JOSEPH ALSOP

HONG KONG

TAKE the grave weakness of the American armed forces on this side of the Pacific. Blend in what seems to be the American policy in the Formosa crisis. Add the formidable array of Chinese Communist military power. Then bake at crisis heat.

CHIANG
Unready

What you get from this repellent recipe is the clear possibility, almost verging on the likelihood, that the United States will end by having to fight an atomic war for Formosa's offshore islands.

That is not the Eisenhower administration's intention of course. The intention is to make a cease-fire deal, or to teach the Communists to mind their manners in a "limited" fight. But the administration's intention has less and less relation to the real drift of events.

NO CEASE-FIRE

It can be safely predicted that the Chinese Communists will not formally assent to a cease-fire. In this city where the best information on Communist China is available, every competent authority, American, British and Chinese, also agrees that Peking means to attack the offshore islands this spring. Therefore, unless the National Security Council again reverses American policy, a fight for the offshore islands involving American forces is now in the cards.

In such a fight, the air battle will be crucial. A powerful Communist force is now massed for the air battle in the great Chinese airbase complex in Chekiang and Kiangsi provinces, as already described in this space. Have we, then, any assurance of beating this powerful Communist air force without using the absolute weapons?

WEAK TEAM

An unhappy "no" is the only possible answer to this key question. No one can give any other answer, who knows the hard facts of our weakness.

Our only prospective allies, Chiang Kaishek's Chinese Nationalists, have one unready group of F-86 fighters and one obsolete group of F-84s to match the very great Communist strength in jet aircraft. All the rest of the small Nationalist air force is composed of rotary engined types.

The U.S. Far Eastern Air Force has some 500 planes less on its roster today than on the grim day when the Korean War began. Furthermore, it has no bombers except for one group of B-36s on Guam. As they have been exclusively trained with atomic weapons, the B-36s cannot hit a fair sized county with conventional bombs.

NAVY BURDEN

Finally, there is the Seventh Fleet, with its total strength of six carriers and no replacements in sight. On the Seventh Fleet will fall—must fall—almost the whole burden of the air offensive. Refueled, Air Force fighters may be used as bombers. But the main job of sweeping the enemy airfields, which is the only way to win the air battle, will have to be done by naval air.

That is the realistic situation. The Navy's leaders in the Pacific are strongly committed to the view that we must fight for the offshore islands. They do not want to discourage a bold policy. They profess to be able to do the job the situation imposes on them.

But history says it is a very risky business to send in a carrier force against a strong land-based air force. In the present case, the risk is all the greater because the Communists are ready to use their Ilyushin-28 jet bombers, which are almost as fast as our carrier-borne fighters.

But if we enter the fight for the offshore islands, we must win at all costs. For if American forces are engaged and defeated, all Asia will regard the defeat as decisive proof of superior Communist power. And the sequel will then be total catastrophe throughout Asia.

Hence it is not hard to foresee what can too easily happen. If the fight for the islands goes against us, as it may well do, there will be only one sure way to win. Whatever may be the administration's present intentions, the use of the atomic weapons can thus become unavoidable. And so our own weakness can end by plunging us into an atomic war for Quemoy and the Matsus.

People's Platform

That Pesky Wax In Milk Cartons

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

PUTTING POURING spouts on milk cartons was the greatest advancement in the milk industry since the cow.

Now, if they could just figure out some way to keep the wax from coming off the inside of the carton and floating, unappetizingly, in your milk, they would just about have the whole thing perfected.

—ROBERT PARATI

Let The Nation Vote On Segregation Issue

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

I HAVE read many, many words about the Supreme Court decision on segregation. Now let us realize that a Supreme Court decision or the Constitution is not the supreme law of the land. The will of the people is the law of the land. On the question of segregation, let us have a national vote.

—EDWARD WILLIAMSON

P. S. I have read many of the Negro newspapers and you should read some of the things they say about us.

Look Homeward, Food Producers

Charlotte

Editors, The News:

SHAME on The News for falling asleep and printing an editorial on March 7 about Tar Heel food producers going out of North Carolina for good package design. It is, indeed, a very pleasant fact that right here in Charlotte we are producing some of the finest package designs in the nation. The printing facilities are some of the finest and largest . . . producing as much as 75 per cent of total packaging in some industries.

I think it is the duty of The News to inform the few unfortunate manufacturers of food products not already acquainted with facilities in Charlotte, that they don't have to go to Yankeeland to get package designs that will sell their product nationally. We're doing it every day.

—BOB ALFORD

Quote, Unquote

It's easy for the well-to-do to be thrifty: they already have all the things the rest of us want.—Corona (Ga.) Independent.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

Reds Can Hit Formosa With Rockets

WASHINGTON

CENTRAL Intelligence is now convinced Chou En-lai will carry out his threat to attack Formosa, but not by a fleet of Chinese junks. Instead the attack will be made with long-range Russian rockets.

Here is why CIA has come to this ominous conclusion:

1. Russia delivered several of its latest long-range missiles to Red China at least eight months ago, and Soviet experts are now training Chinese crews to operate them.

2. It's known that Russia has turned over squadrons of fast, IL-28 jet bombers and improved MIG-17 jet fighters to the Chinese Reds.

All this adds up to the probability that Russia wants a limited war in the Far East to test new weapons with someone else doing the fighting and the dying.

This may also explain why Chou has been so belligerent in his threats against Formosa. He has threatened so much that he would now lose face in the Orient if he failed to follow through.

The months to watch, Central Intelligence has warned, are June and July.

Real significance of this latest intelligence from behind the Bamboo Curtain is that a rocket attack on Formosa would be most likely to draw the United States into a shooting war with Red China. For Eisenhower and Dulles have already indicated that they would drop A-bombs on the Chinese mainland in case of such hostilities around Formosa.

Note—It was the intelligence reports on China's long-range rockets that helped reverse Secretary of State Dulles' thinking on Formosa. In the past, he has discounted the possibility of an attack on Formosa, knowing that an amphibious assault couldn't possibly get past the Seventh Fleet. He has now changed his mind and decided Chou En-lai isn't altogether bluffing.

Politics & Business Don't Mix

The Eisenhower administration's laudable campaign to turn government business over to private business is getting all snarled up in politics.

For the first time in history a private real-estate broker is being retained to sell a large government factory, but there's been more haggling over who would be the broker than over the appointment of a postmaster.

The surplus factory is at Newcastle, Pa., where United Engineering & Foundry of Pittsburgh makes forging and steel castings but will abandon the operation March 31. So the factory, valued at $20,000,000, is up for sale.

Ordinarily, surplus government factories are advertised for sale in various newspapers and the General Services Administration then negotiates or sells to the highest bidder without any realtor coming into the picture.

However, the Ikeites have devised a new plan for retaining real estate brokers which—in the case of the Newcastle plant—means a commission of $117,000.

All this, of course, is sound American business practice. But when the Republican National Committee has to ok the broker and when he must be ok'd by the Republican senators in his state, then sound American business stops and politics steps in.

Bickering Over Broker

Early in January, Water F. Downey, regional director of the General Services Administration, which disposes of government property, looked around western Pennsylvania to find a suitable industrial realtor. Four or five companies were interested in buying the Newcastle plant, but Downey's instructions were not to sell the plant direct, thereby saving the $117,000 commission—but inaugurate the new system of retaining a local broker.

He finally picked Thomas McCaffrey of near-by Pittsburgh, and non-political civil servants at General Services began typing out a press release announcing that for the first time a government sale would be handled by a private broker.

It was at this point that political trouble came zooming over the horizon. Frank Fox, suave special assistant to GSAdministrator Ed Mansure excitedly intervened. He pretested that McCaffrey's selection hadn't been cleared with the two Republican senators from Pennsylvania.

More Politics

So the press release was held up. Fox got on the telephone. Lefty Lush, assistant to Sen. James Duff, immediately ok'd McCaffrey. But George Bloom, who makes political decisions for the other Pennsylvania senator, Ed Martin, did not.

McCaffrey's professional record, he hinted, was tainted with scandal—namely, a reported land deal where he, as state appraiser, bought some land he knew was about to be purchased by the state.

Next, the Republican Committee got into the act. It, too, frowned on McCaffrey for this juicy commission-rewarding job.

However, GSAdministrator Mansure checked with the attorney general of Pennsylvania who gave McCaffrey a clean bill of health. Finally, he got the broker's job.

Reason for all the fuss was pure, undiluted politics in the background.

George Bloom knows Pennsylvania politics as well as he knows his boss. Senator Martin. He knew that McCaffrey was in a hot political campaign two years ago to become mayor of Pittsburgh. No land-deal charge emerged against him then. He also knew McCaffrey had been a state appraiser for a dozen years; and still is—under Democratic Governor Leader. Bloom also must have known that McCaffrey held important posts with the Pittsburgh Red Cross, the Boys' Club, St. Francis Hospital, and that he was national president of Industrial Realtors in 1952.

Why therefore did Senator Martin's office hint dire things about him?

The answer is simple. Senator Martin had his own candidate to get the $117,000 commission—namely, Lawrence Kane, brother of John Kane, Republican treasurer of Alleghany County, Pittsburgh, a close friend of Martin's.

Kane just happened to be McCaffrey's primary opponent in 1953. In that primary Senator Martin backed Kane, Senator Duff backed McCaffrey.

So it was politics, pure politics, not private enterprise that dominates the first sale of government property according to "free enterprise" principles.

Note—Ed Mansure, who has done a good job running the General Services Administration, might have saved himself some headaches had he talked to the Pennsylvania congressman where the factory is located and who had phoned several times, worried about what would happen to the people who would be thrown out of work when the factory closed down March 31. There was a good reason, however, why he didn't talk to him. The congressman, Frank Clark, happens to be a Democrat.