

Small Business: A Helping Hand

THE South, postwar America's ragged riches region, is fast growing out of its agricultural adolescence. The accent is firmly and irrevocably on industry—not just any industry but big industry. Dixie wants the General Electric, the DuPonts, the Fords. It wants to reap the bounteous economic harvests big business can provide in carload lots.

North Carolina's courtship of the giants has been particularly vigorous. Certainly large enterprises are desirable. They add great strength to the state's economy.

But there has been a growing feeling among Tar Heel economists that North Carolina, in its headlong quest for industrial bigness, has perhaps been overlooking the worth of the little fellows.

Small business can indeed contribute much to the state's security and general well-being. There is no doubt about it: Greater encouragement of the little businessman is needed.

Gov. Luther H. Hodges, addressing the State Bankers' Assn. yesterday in Pinehurst, wrote out an economic prescription that is just what the patient needs. He proposed the formation of a development credit corporation "as a facility for the promotion of small business in North Carolina."

It would be set up as a private corporation—possibly tax-exempt for awhile but without other state aid—to provide the venture capital small business needs to either get started or expand.

All it would do to add to North Carolina's present economic equipment would be to provide a source for possible long-term credit for approved small business ventures. It would be an important addition, however.

The idea is sound. It is also well-tested. New England already has such an organization going. Gov. Averell Harriman has recommended something similar for New York.

A North Carolina development corporation might find it advisable to go even further by offering counsel on all sorts of problems—financial or otherwise—peculiar to small firms.

By helping small business sink healthy roots into North Carolina's economic soil, the state will be helping itself as well as small business. It will be building the safest, soundest foundation on which a prosperous economic life can be constructed.

The giants are not enough. There must be plenty of small enterprises—the pigmies of commerce—to fill the gaps and provide the diversification North Carolina must have to win long-range economic security.

Who Has The Fiscal Corkscrew?

LIKE the Arabian fisherman, County Commissioners have the genie corked securely in a bottle.

The 1955 General Assembly has graciously approved an enabling act to establish a small claims court in Mecklenburg. The framework for such a court is spelled out rather clearly in law. But the law is meaningless unless commissioners decide to make use of it. If they choose, the small claims court idea can remain bottled up forever.

Obviously, with the need so great, the law should be used.

Charlotte attorneys told commissioners yesterday that it takes from 12 to 18 months to get a case tried in Mecklenburg Superior Court's civil division.

This is too long to wait for justice. By siphoning off cases involving \$3,000 or less to a small claims court, the pressure on Superior Court could be greatly relieved and the classic promise of a "speedy trial" could be fulfilled—or at least have a reasonable chance to be fulfilled.

The request for a small claims court has been "taken under advisement." But commissioners grumbled sometime ago that there is not available money or space for an extra court in the 1955-56 budget approved yesterday, there was no appropriation for one.

We feel sure that with such a worthy project at stake both the money and the space can be found if commissioners are willing to look for it.

Yesterday's request was hardly a bolt from the blue. Commissioners have known about the court for quite awhile. It seems that provisions could have been made for it in the county's fiscal structure long before this.

Surely it is not too late to act—particularly when action will contribute to notable improvement in the administration of justice in Mecklenburg County.

A Hasty Retreat On A Hard Problem

THE tangy taste of politics kills the flavor of reason in the House vote to shove aside appropriations for unflexible farm price supports.

We can think of no reason other than anticipated political gains for congressmen who have turned their backs on a program they passed just last year. The conditions which brought forth the flexible system have not changed. Over-production stimulated by the rigid 90 per cent supports the House now favors is still with us. The farmer is just as far away from the open market, where his production was keyed to demand, as he ever was. A majority of the House apparently thinks the political climate has changed.

The 1954 flexible support law—providing support on basic crops at from 1 1/2 to 90 per cent of parity this year with a broader range of 75-90 per cent next year—was designed to bring production into balance. Whether it can do so is not known and won't be if the Senate joins the House retreat on the farm issue.

We think the new law should have a chance to operate before there is a pell-mell rush back to a system that both parties wanted, and have acted, to change. Flexible supports have been backed by impressive numbers of farm economists, experts and farmer organizations, Democrat and Republican alike. The current flexible system is very similar to the Anderson law sponsored by a Democratic senator and passed by a Democratic Congress. It was never actually permitted to operate either.

As for politics, the House majority may not reap the crop of votes it contemplated in its vote. Several Midwestern congressmen have been advised by polls of farmer constituents to continue support of a flexible system. And we don't think the slight shift of voter sentiment in the November elections can be tied solidly to the farm issue.

A decline in farm income certainly is reason for concern, to the farmer and to the rest of the economy. But the drop has not been proved a result of the new support law by its opponents and we doubt if it will be.

The Senate should take the responsible position of giving the law a chance to demonstrate whether it can cure the problems inherent in the system the House has now re-embraced.

From The Florida Times-Union

REBUILT, NOT 'RECONSTRUCTED'

WHILE the people of the region below the Mason-Dixon line are paying tribute today to the men who died for the "Lost Cause," they will be more aware of the "New South" than they were of the "Old South."

The states of the former Confederacy are never too preoccupied with affairs of the day to pause in a moment of silence to the sacrifices of the men of the thin gray line.

The people of the South today, however, are not living in the past; they are scanning the horizon for a bright future with a spirit equally as potent as that which sustained their courage in the War Between the States.

Only a person with ties to the Old South and a keen appreciation of what lies ahead in the New South can understand why the citizens of New Orleans a couple of years ago abhorred the idea of the Robert E. Lee monument in the Crescent City being "reconstructed" instead of rebuilt.

The sign was a bitter reminder of days that followed the unpleasantness of the 1860's, and city officials ordered it removed from the site of the work.

Viewing the War Between the States in perspective, there are many people today, notable economists, who declare the South benefited by that conflict. They say that the war may have been a boon to this section insofar as it tended to make people realize the value of their resources.

Unfortunately, the words of Henry Brady about a "New South" did not reg-

ister as quickly as he hoped they would with his fellow southerners during those fateful "reconstruction" days. As a section we indulged too long in self-pity. But today, Dixie has thrown off the shackles of tradition that held back progress.

A knowledge of the South's history is essential to an understanding of the great empire below the Mason-Dixon line. Let it not obscure our vision of the great realm in which we live. Let the South think today more upon another aspect of its heritage—that legacy of the nation's finest brains which it must apply to God's gift of undeveloped resources.

Not too long ago the chic girls, with their short haircuts, looked like little boys. Now, with the new, slightly longer style they look like little boys who need haircuts.—ASHEVILLE CITIZEN.

Two scientists report getting radio broadcasts from the planet Jupiter, but the messages weren't clear enough to tell what they are selling.—MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR.

Electronic desks will have buttons that can turn on lights, turn on tape recorders, open windows, close doors and do about everything except find what you are looking for.—LEXINGTON HERALD.

Sudden thought: Whatever happens to all that money we save buying the large economy sizes?—MATTION (ILL.) JOURNAL-GAZETTE.



This firm doesn't offer a pension plan, or a guaranteed annual wage, but we do have a good company psychiatrist who will cure any feeling of insecurity...

'Academic And Theoretical' Increased Iron Curtain Trade?

By CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

WASHINGTON EAST-WEST trade, long a fascinating subject in world capitals, may again make U. S. headlines if the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee carries out present plans for a probe.

The Senate group wants to examine the effectiveness of controls maintained by the United States and other Western nations over the export of strategic goods to the Soviet bloc. But the probe may spill over into the question of non-strategic exports and East-West trade in general.

Among interested outsiders will be the men in Moscow and Peking. The Communists have made effective propaganda around the world on the issue that, but for U. S.-enforced trade controls, other countries might enjoy vastly increased and profitable trade with the Soviet bloc. And the propaganda is insidious.

For example, the people of Copenhagen are told that their port is losing business to Hamburg, because the Germans are more active in their trade controls. But in Hamburg, the Communists peddle the same line about Copenhagen.

AN AWAKENING Fortunately for the U. S., this approach is beginning to lose its punch. Western authorities, sensitive to the lure of expanded East-West trade a year ago, are now beginning to suspect that there's a little substance behind the Communist propaganda.

On March 30, 1954, President Eisenhower told Congress that a "greater exchange of personnel and imports from the Soviet Union" should not cause us undue concern. Later, the U. S. announced a reduction in the list of strategic items subject to international control.

As late as Jan. 18, 1955, Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson suggested trading surplus U. S. butter for Soviet manganese. But on April 15, Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson said the entire question of increased trade between the U. S. and the Soviet bloc "is academic and theoretical."

REAL BARRIER What has happened is that U. S. officials have been examining trade with the bloc is not Western trade controls, but the East's lack of foreign exchange and the capacity to pay.

To begin with, they note that total East-West trade was the same in 1954 as it was in 1947, the earlier year, free world exports to the bloc totaled \$2 billion, imports \$1.4 billion, for a total of \$3.4 billion. Last year, estimated exports and imports were \$1.7 billion each, or a total of \$3.4 billion.

Fluctuations have occurred in the intervening years. Total exports to China dropped from \$62 million to \$270 million, as the result of the U. S. embargo on all trade with China and a less severe United Nations embargo. On the other hand, exports to the entire bloc in 1954 rose by \$30 million over a low of \$4 billion in 1953. Essentially, however, the figures show no great change over the entire period since 1947.

All this, say the experts, tends to show that there is a limited market for Soviet bloc exports in the free world. And without a guaranteed export, the bloc cannot expand its imports, unless by selling gold. This is what happened in 1954, when Soviet imports of \$600 million exceeded exports by \$150 million, forcing the Soviets to sell gold. Communist gold reserves are unknown, but specialists doubt that the Soviets would be willing to continue financing a trade deficit with the gold.

TINY PERCENTAGE What might happen if the West abandoned its strategic trade controls? Would trade shoot up? Probably not, say the experts. The Soviet bloc would simply transfer its free world purchases from non-strategic to strategic items. No one knows for certain just how effective present controls are, although the Senate Committee intends to find out, if possible. But its work noting that total East-West trade of \$3.4 billion in 1954 constituted only 2.2 per cent of all world trade.

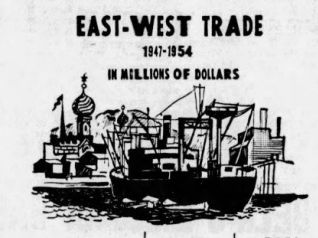


Table with trade data: FREE WORLD EXPORTS TO SOVIET BLOC* (\$2,006, \$1,700), FREE WORLD IMPORTS FROM SOVIET BLOC* (\$1,422, \$1,690), TOTAL EAST-WEST TRADE (\$3,426, \$3,390). Includes note: * Soviet bloc includes European satellites, U.S.S.R. and China.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON SELDOM have so many alert young governors gathered in Washington as during the recent gubernatorial conference. Among the most impressive youngsters were Hall of Kansas, Foss of South Dakota, Republicans, Leaders of Pennsylvania, Muskie of Maine, Freeman of Minnesota, Simms of New Mexico, Faubus of Arkansas, all Democrats... Also oldtimer "Soapy" Williams of Michigan, still young but serving his fourth term; Meyer of New Jersey, who now acts as an adviser to the governor of Pennsylvania; Ed Johnson of Colorado, now in his 70's but just elected, and McFarland of Arizona, who was both senator and governor.

Youthful Governors In The Spotlight

calling themselves hillbillies, but also in the fact that they are represented in the Senate by a Rhodes scholar and former university president. Republicrat Governor Gov. Shivers flew to Washington in a chartered 34-seat Braniff plane, with only his public relations man, Jimmie Brantley, and the latter's two children along. In Washington, he wooed other governors, and for the most part won them. He also conferred pleasantly and profitably with Democratic Chairman Paul Butler at a breakfast in the speaker's kitchen. They came out of the kitchen arm-in-arm, after which Butler issued a complimentary statement... Shivers, however, wasn't so co-operative when talking to Texas newsmen. Asked: "Will you be for Stevenson in '56?" Shivers replied, "No..." "What does he have to change besides

People's Platform Court Under Fire

Editors. The News: OBSERVING the attacks made upon Sen. Ervin, through correspondence appearing in the News arising from his recent Harvard address, and made by persons who display total ignorance of the jurisdictional powers and functions of the U. S. Supreme Court, brings to mind the sage observations of Jonathan Swift: "When a true genius appears in the world, you may know him by this sign, that the dunces are all in confederacy against him."

It seems to me, after nearly 90 years active practice of the law, much of my work being in defense of the Negro in respect to his personal liberties and property rights before our courts, that almost any high school student or intelligent adult layman, should at least understand that the U. S. Supreme Court has no jurisdiction (authority) to amend our constitution by the dubious means of reconsidering and reversing a former decision of that court, deciding a constitutional question, such as separation of the races in public schools, such unamended amendment of our constitutional law being fully accomplished by the much over-advertised "May 17th," and mis-called "law of the land" decision of the present, court-packed "nine black robed men" in Washington.

FAMOUS REVERSAL Nearly 60 years ago, the court then composed of distinguished lawyers, held constitutional the separation of the races in the schools, a "segregation" is a mere name-calling word used to arouse prejudice in the minds of the uninformed persons—such generation applying equally and alike to both races, and that decision was supported by a number of prior and analogous decisions of both state and federal courts, and the people of this country, who alone have the authority to amend their constitution, have had 60 years to consider this long standing decision by their own amendment, but they have not done so and now we have it from a court composed, as Sen. Ervin so well states, of men of practical, no experience either practice of the law or services in our judiciary.

It is a shameless separation of the races is now considered to be in violation of the constitution. SHORTLY Very limited space prevents an in-depth discussion of the long delayed discovery of the meaning of our constitution. Now, within three years after the adoption of our national constitution, the Supreme Court, in Hilton vs. U. S., 3 Dallas, 171, upheld the constitutionality of an act of Congress, every member of the Constitutional Convention was then alive and not when then questioned court jurisdiction to determine the constitutional question raised in that case. Nine years later, in Marbury vs. Madison, the Supreme Court for the first time held an act of Congress unconstitutional. At that time 28 of the 55 members of the constitutional convention were still alive, and none of them questioned the court's authority to so determine the case, reported in 1 Cranch, 132.

It has been the invariable rule of the U. S. Supreme Court, and of all state appellate courts, never to reconsider and reverse a former decision settling a constitutional question, for two obvious reasons: First, the meaning of the constitution, its life-blood, should be kept fixed and settled at all times, and not subject to changes by the whims of its members, or the ship of our highest appellate court.

Second, by reconsidering and reversing a prior decision of a constitutional question, adds up to a short-cut amendment thereof, for which there is no legal authority, the amending power be-



SEN. ERVIN Dances In Confederacy?

ing refused in the people themselves. From the day the Supreme Court was organized, year 1789, and during the next 150 years of the court's history, there has been only one case in which the court has ever reconsidered and reversed a decision formerly decided on a constitutional question, and that one instance arose in the local tender cases during the Grant administration.

FAMOUS REVERSAL There were two vacancies on the bench at that time, the decision went against the administration by only one vote. Grant immediately nominated two lawyers to fill the two vacancies, the Senate approved, the case was again submitted, and the court, by a vote, reversed the former decision.

The people of this country were so disturbed by this turn-about instance that Grant was openly hostile toward "packing" the court for the specific purpose of having the constitution amended to suit the executive views and purposes of the Grant repeatedly denied as long as he lived.

The history of this only one instance of amendment of the constitution by the dubious method of reconsidering and reversing a former decision is thoroughly related by Sen. Carter Glass in his radio address to the nation, denouncing the Roosevelt court-packing scheme, which address was published March 30, 1937, in the Congressional Record, and merits reading by every thinking American citizen.

NO SUPPORT The present court, however, has proceeded to thus amend the constitution by "packing" the court, in several recent decisions, the original and credit, class and color, and race, having been so reconsidered and tortured beyond any prior interpretation thereof.

It may be said without fear of authoritative contradiction, that the "May 17th" decision does not, in fact, amend the constitution, but, instead, and resorting to the fields of sociology, psychology and psychiatry, we are given the recent enlightenment that separation of the races makes the Negro a second class citizen, that he is unable to acquire an education unless sitting with white students, and that separation from white people causes the Negro to suffer from mental inferiority complexes, conclusions that no intelligent self-respecting member of the Negro race can accept at all. Supplementing the learned suggestions made in Sen. Ervin's Harvard address, we suggest amending to the constitution prohibiting the courts from reconsidering and reversing a former decision on constitutional questions, further providing that all such decisions regarding the constitution, including the "May 17th" decision, be declared void.

—WM. F. JONES

Definitions Prose And Poetry

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE in "Table Talk" THE definition of good prose is proper words in their proper places; of good verse—the most proper words in their proper place. The propriety is in either case relative. The words in prose ought to express the intended meaning, and no more; if they attract attention to themselves, it is, in general, a fault. In the very best styles, as Southey's, you read page after page, understanding the author perfectly, without once taking notice of the medium of communication; to you as if he had been speaking to you all the while. But in verse you must do more: there the words, the mere, must be beautiful, and ought to attract your notice—yet not so much and so perpetually as to destroy the intention which ought to result from the whole poem. This is the general rule, but of course subject to some modifications, according to the different kinds of prose or verse.

Replicat Governor

Gov. Shivers flew to Washington in a chartered 34-seat Braniff plane, with only his public relations man, Jimmie Brantley, and the latter's two children along. In Washington, he wooed other governors, and for the most part won them. He also conferred pleasantly and profitably with Democratic Chairman Paul Butler at a breakfast in the speaker's kitchen. They came out of the kitchen arm-in-arm, after which Butler issued a complimentary statement... Shivers, however, wasn't so co-operative when talking to Texas newsmen. Asked: "Will you be for Stevenson in '56?" Shivers replied, "No..." "What does he have to change besides