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Editorial Correspondence

North Carolina Is On The Right Track

By CECIL PRINCE
Associate Editor, The News

WE HAVE been living," said Luther H. Hodges, "in a fool's paradise." Hands clasped, notes open before him like a Psalter, the governor preached a somber sermon about Tar Heel taxes.

For years, he gumbled, North Carolina has splashed complacently in the pool of its own fiscal ignorance. Despite its dedication to greater and greater industrialization and the improvement of per capita income, the state has actually thwarted progress over a revenue program second to none in unattainableness.

The governor leaned forward, speaking over his clasped hands like a high school teacher lecturing a class in civics. "Gentlemen," he said, "it is high time we did something about it."

The fire at his side popped and cracked ominously as if to accent a ceremonial warning. Visiting Tar Heel editors, seated coolly around the governor's hearth, were then treated to an informal explanation of the most important political issue to face North Carolinians in the months just ahead—the first step to stern reform of the state's tax structure since 1933.

Brandon P. Hodges, chairman of the Tax Study Commission which masterminded the proposed changes, spoke. So did James S. Currie, the commission's executive secretary. Later, the governor handled a fusillade of questions with firmness and relaxed good humor. When a query was too technical, he was quick to admit that the questioner had gone over the narrow edge of his knowledge. He called instantly on Messrs. Brandon Hodges and Currie.

AGAIN this indefatigable, exceedingly earnest man has had to lead a crusade of sorts. He has chosen to do it, with its slightly, wistful air of elegant informality, will undoubtedly dominate the tax issue as it did the Pearsall Plan. But this time he will have to battle all of the ungracious political goblines that traditionally venture forth when tax tinkering is suggested. With the Pearsall Plan, the governor and his educational advisors wove the words and music and all the General Assembly had to do was follow the score. This time legislators are bound to have ideas of their own about both tunes and tempi.

THE reasons for the proposed tax changes are clearly apparent. The tax machinery set up in 1933 and tinkered with considerably since, has come to look something like a Rube Goldberg cartoon. Some of it is obsolete. Much of it is unfair. All of it needs tightening. The Tax Study Commission, with Charlotte's own E. M. O'Herron Jr. as one of its key members, took a long, hard look at this antique fiscal structure with the aid of a stable of experts.

The picture painted for them was not pretty.

Portrait Of The Artist As An Old Ham

IN VIEW of the antics of painter Salvadore Dali, it is little wonder that most Americans doubt the validity of modern art.

News readers were treated Thursday to his latest technique, which he calls "bulletism." It involves shooting pieces of lithographic pencil at a stone. This with a 16th Century arquebus, forerunner of the musket.

Earlier, Mr. Dali staged a characteristically insane stunt to launch his new exhibit of surrealist canvases in Rome. As baffled reporters gaped, he popped out of a giant white cube covered with 918 strange symbols and solemnly announced: "I am taking the precaution of being born again."

Dali needs these madcap adventures now to attract attention to his work. In an art world long choked with Expressionism, Cubism, Futurism, Fauvism and Dadaism, his surrealist paintings and "bulletist" lithographs have lost their power to excite aestheticians. Limp watches and fractured landscapes seem "new" and "original" and "original" no longer. Overshadowed by genuinely significant modern masters like Matisse, Braque, Picasso, Kandinsky, Chagall, Beckmann, Orozco et al., Dali must turn to his press agency rather than to his easel in quest of fresh triumphs.

MISSING, PROBABLY PERMANENTLY

NO FEWER than 26 mammals, the International Union for the Protection of Nature has announced in Scotland, are threatened with extinction today.

The Survival Service of that group, formed to help preserve species in danger of becoming extinct, has listed their names, and a colorful array of beasts they are: The Asiatic lion, the Tasmanian wolf, the Javan one-horned rhinoceros, the Nubian wild ass among them. So are the Przewalski wild horse, the Persian wild ass, the Caribbean and the Hawaiian monk seals, the Suleiman markhor. The Addo bush elephant is endangered; so are chinchillas, all species, and the black-footed ferret. And so on; big and little mammals are alike imperiled.

It is to be hoped that the IUPN, or, as it will henceforth be known, the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources), will meet with success in its drive to save the vanishing mammals. What, after all, would life be without the Nubian wild ass and the Addo bush elephant? But while the gentlemen are at it, attention may well be directed to several additional vanishing species whose increasing scarcity threatens to imperil us all.

Among southeastern states, North Carolina appears to levy the highest or nearly the highest state and local tax burden upon manufacturing corporations. The tax differentials between North Carolina and other southeastern states appear to be real differentials and not merely apparent differentials. North Carolina levies the highest corporate income tax rate of any of the southeastern states with the exception of the nearby North Carolina failure to include a sales factor in its statutory allocation formula for manufacturing corporations tends to inflate state income tax burdens for most manufacturing corporations compared with some southeastern states. North Carolina's burdens are relatively high because of the failure to permit the deduction of federal income taxes in the derivation of taxable net income. Furthermore, evidence indicates that North Carolina occupies one of the top positions among 11 southeastern states in terms of the tax burdens imposed on all types of corporations with multistate operations.

THE remedies proposed will tend to soften the impact of some, but not all of these tax blows. Major emphasis is placed upon the elimination of inequities by substituting methods which will make North Carolina's high taxes more palatable to the taxpayers.

The fiscal effect of the program is estimated to be a net decrease in state general fund collections of nearly \$9 million. This is because of its "interrelated changes." Certain sources of revenue are given to cities and counties while others are assumed by the state in an attempt to eliminate duplicating and overlapping taxation by various levels of government. The hope is that short term losses will be replaced in the future by conspicuous gains when the state's economy is bolstered.

NATURALLY, the immediate beneficiaries of many of the changes will be large foreign and domestic corporations doing business in North Carolina. This, most of us would feel, is not directly at first. In the long run, however, every Tar Heel will benefit from a sensible tax program designed to strengthen the state's economic base.

Whether this package provides the appropriate balance except on an emergency basis, is far-reaching and enormously complicated. There are certain details which will bear close scrutiny.

But it must be said immediately that a tremendously significant start has been made on an extremely serious problem. It is our belief, a start in the correct direction. Both the governor and the commission are to be congratulated on their courageous, conscientious and cohesive approach to the fiscal facts of life in North Carolina.

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'You Say There Might Be Bears Around Here?'



How Long The Exile? Hungary: The Longer View

By WALTER LIPPMANN



Stalin's Heel

THERE can be few in this country who have not felt how sharp is the contrast between what we have been saying about Hungary and what we are doing. The stark and brutal fact of the situation is that Hungary lies wholly within the iron grip of the Red Army, and that neither we nor our allies in the Atlantic alliance have the means to intervene and to challenge the Red Army.

This has left us doing two things — protesting and trying to arouse world opinion on the one hand, and on the other doing something to bring aid and comfort to the large and growing mass of refugees who are fleeing into Austria. This, most of us would feel, is not nearly enough, and that besides words and charity the country should at least be preparing, even if it is too early to propose, a solution of the underlying problem which these horrors and agonies arise.

Image And Idea The Story's The Thing

WE are all like Scheherazade's husband, in that we want to know what happens next. That is universal and it is why the backbone of a novel has to be a story. Some of us want to know nothing else — there is nothing in us but primal curiosity, and consequently our other literary judgments are ludicrous. And now the story can be defined. It is a narrative of events arranged in their time sequence—dinner coming after breakfast, Tuesday after Monday, decay after death, and so on.

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

WASHINGTON
AFTER the Democratic decision to press for a liberal legislative program, party Chairman Paul Butler telephoned Senate leader Lyndon Johnson with the news.

Polite Way

It was a polite way of telling Johnson that he wasn't running the Democratic Party. Butler reported that the executive committee had voted unanimously to seek speedy action on a "liberal and enlightened" program. This was exactly opposite to the don't-rock-the-boat policy Johnson himself had announced.

A Mistake

"You are splitting the Democratic Party to pieces," Johnson exploded over the phone. It was a mistake, he warned angrily, to come out with a Democratic program ahead of President Eisenhower's legislative recommendations. The tall Texan also wanted to know who was responsible for challenging his leadership.

U. S. Shifting Gears On Suez: Turns To Help Atlantic Allies

By JOSEPH & STEWART ALSOP



MR. EISENHOWER A Rebuke Delivered

A convulsive effort to give the shattered Western alliance together again, and to repair some of the terrible damage done by the Middle East crisis, is now going on in Washington. The most important part of this effort is a firm administration decision to make up the desperate prospective West European oil shortage, caused by the closing of the Suez Canal. Official estimates place the likely cost to the U. S. Treasury at over a billion dollars.

There was even some consideration given to calling a special session of Congress to get the money, but it has since been decided that available funds are enough to tide things over until the regular session. The idea of a special session was, of course, to put it mildly, distasteful to the administration, for obvious political reasons. And it was also obvious that a special session would dramatize the issue, and thus infuriate the Arabs, perhaps even bring about the cutting of the oil pipelines from Saudi Arabia.

The effort to glue things together again has taken other forms as well. Like President Eisenhower's strong statement reaffirming support for the Western alliance, and the decision to send Secretary Dulles off to the NATO meeting in Paris, less than five weeks after his cancer operation.

The official American reaction to the Middle Eastern crisis has gone through three phases. The first phase was simply fury; in this initial phase, there was much talk of "letting the British and French stew in their own juice." One very high administration policymaking official was widely quoted as saying that it was now American policy to "write off Britain and France."

President Eisenhower was personally in large part responsible for the change. He rebuked his furious subordinates, and emphasized the importance of the Western Alliance. At the same time, he indicated the policy of putting the main emphasis of American policy on working through the United Nations, and the Western alliance was correspondingly downgraded. During this period, policy was being made entirely by the President, under secretary of state Herbert Hoover Jr., and a handful of high administration associates.

This phase culminated last week, when the United States joined the Soviet Union in demanding at the U.N. that Britain

Parents Are Running Popularity Contests

Editors, The News: CHARLOTTE
TOO much emphasis these days is being put on the teenagers. Some say they are wild, irresponsible, impulsive, etc., etc., perhaps all of this is true to some extent.

However, it is fair to our younger generation to point a guilty finger at them and excuse the parents for the actions of their children?

It is certainly a difficult, and full-time job being a parent—and it takes 24 hours every day of the year, not certain hours out of each day. When are the parents going to wake up and assume this responsibility? Children are being pushed into growing up before their natural time, dating in the early grades, formal dances in the seventh grade, and married before they graduate from the 12th grade.

Are the parents trying to run a popularity contest instead of concentrating in preparing their children for a normal, well-adjusted, and happy adult life? It is discipline and understanding in regards to their children reaps far better rewards, less heartache, and most assuredly better citizens of tomorrow.

Before our babies can walk, they must be developed and taught; by the same token before our young people can be adults, they must be developed, there's not one of us who can let our children grow gradually and naturally into adulthood. After they have reached maturity, there's not one of us who can let "turn the clock back." It isn't the majority of the children who should be condemned. It's the over-ages.

—MRS. L. W. HOWARD.

Change The Names Of Homes For Aged

Editors, The News: MONROE
WHY NOT change the atmosphere for the benefit of our beloved elders who are no longer able to carry on in useful occupation in our fast-moving society? The term "old folk's home" is dreadful. I have heard some older say they think of the words as having almost the same meaning as "abandon," as something utterly forsaken by relatives and friends. They shiver with frightful anticipation on entering these

Why not call these institutions geriatrician universities? After all, there's a lot of words that give one a proper perspective of his surroundings. Words, like numbers, are the gift of God, and a guide for the human race.

— J. S. CONYERS

Finnegan Out

Two backstage moves to oust Democratic Chairman Paul Butler didn't even get inside the door at the executive committee meeting...

Democrats Challenge Johnson's Rule

Paul Ziffren, replied Butler, referring to California's national advisory committee. "Man Johnson muttered something about reading Ziffren's files in the paper."

Talk To Sam

After Johnson cooled down, Butler calmly invited him to join the 17-member committee that will "coordinate and advance" the liberal program. Johnson indignantly replied it was all right with him, but he would have to talk to House Speaker Sam Rayburn first.

Token Opposition

The committee's action ran up against only token opposition during the closed-door sessions this week. The resolution, calling for speedy action on a liberal program, was introduced by Ziffren and backed by two big-city leaders—Mayor Dave Lawrence of Pittsburgh and Col. Jake Arvey of Chicago.

Louisiana national committeeman Camille Gravel Jr., speaking for the South, protested that Ziffren's resolution would do what the Democratic Convention had

Garden Path

Johnson's policies, however, didn't win any votes in the South. In fact, he lost his own state of Texas to Eisenhower. As Butler said, "I have heard some older say they think of the words as having almost the same meaning as 'abandon,' as something utterly forsaken by relatives and friends. They shiver with frightful anticipation on entering these

Beating Ike

The executive committee also decided to meet with the 17-member advisory committee Jan. 4 to lay down a legislative program. This means the Democrats will come out with their program before Ike's State of the Union recommendations—another slap at Johnson's wait-for-the-President policy.

In short, the executive committee took every possible step to beat off Johnson from taking over leadership of the Democratic Party.