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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1941

Star-News Program

Consolidated City-County Government under Council-Manager Administration. Public Port Terminals. Perfected Truck and Berry Preserving and Marketing Facilities. Arena for Sports and Industrial Shows. Seaside Highway from Wrightsville Beach to Bald Head Island. Extension of City Limits. 35-Foot Cape Fear River channel, wider Turning Basin, with ship lanes into industrial sites along Eastern bank south of Wilmington. Paved River Road to Southport, via Orton Plantation. Development of Pulp Wood Production through sustained-yield methods throughout Southeastern North Carolina. Unified Industrial and Resort Promotional Agency, supported by one county-wide tax. Shipyards and Drydocks. Negro Health Center for Southeastern North Carolina, developed around the Community Hospital. Adequate hospital facilities for whites. Junior High School. Tobacco Warehouse for Export Buyers. Development of native grape growing throughout Southeastern North Carolina. Modern Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

TOP OF THE MORNING

Hast thou a lamp, a little lamp,
Put in that hand of thine?
And did He say, who gave it thee,
The world hath need this light should be
Now, therefore, let it shine!

Thou shalt not want for light enough,
When earthly moons grow dim;
The dawn is but begun for thee,
When thou shalt hand, so tremblingly,
Thy empty lamp to Him.

—SARAH PRATT McLEAN GREEN

Anxiety In Far East

To the ominous rumblings of approaching crisis in Europe the Far East is adding an accompaniment so menacing that it seems the war is about to burst forth in renewed violence as Germany, Italy and Japan strike together to smash the British Empire for once and for all.

Recently the Australian cabinet was in urgent session following the startling statement issued by acting Prime Minister J. W. Fadden and John Curtin, leader of the labor opposition, that the war has "moved into a new stage involving the utmost gravity." Without explanatory details, they proclaimed that the nation must neither "delay nor doubt" in making the greatest possible effort to be ready.

This call to action came against a background of rising tension. There were reports of Japanese demands for concessions in the Dutch East Indies. Japanese warships are reported in numbers in the China sea off Saigon, and it is known that the British have strengthened their air force along the Malayan border.

Meanwhile our own government has again called on Americans in the Orient to leave, the wives and children of army officers in the Philippines have been ordered home, and the Philippine government has called 100,000 men into service. At Washington the President has asked for new funds for naval bases in the Pacific, including Guam and Samoa.

All this adds up to a threatening picture and the existence of the Three-Power pact does not mitigate it. Yet the State department is not taking undue alarm, and it may be that when it comes to taking steps that cannot be retraced Japan will hesitate rather than actually attack either the Dutch or the British.

The World War changed everything but our way of thinking. —Chester C. Davis, farm member, NDA

Bettered By Revamping

As revamped by the senate foreign affairs committee, the lend-lease bill, as the debate on it started yesterday, is a much more acceptable measure than it was originally or in the form approved by the house. To some extent, at least, the control congress would retain over operations under the bill's provisions has been increased.

The Byrnes amendment, despite the charge that it is mere "window dressing," does seem to set up an additional check on the powers that would be delegated to the executive by the bill. Its announced purpose is to require the President to obtain both an authorization and an appropriation from congress before he enters into any contracts for defense articles that would be turned over to other countries.

In its first version the bill gave the President this authority and the only control congress retained was the power to appropriate. Under the Byrnes amendment each request will be dealt with separately and will, in effect, go through the mill twice. There is some virtue in this procedure or it would not have been followed by congress for more than 100 years.

The senate committee seems to have strengthened the house amendment providing that powers granted can be terminated by joint resolution even before the expiration date. The authority given the President is made contingent on the absence of such a resolution. Actually the chance of a resolution getting through both houses, in the absence of a flagrant abuse of executive power, is as good as non-existent.

But the committee failed to list the countries that are to receive American help. The question of how far to go in the matter of aiding nations resisting aggression is still to be determined.

It Taxes Credulity

Considering the recurrent surpluses which have bedeviled our agricultural economy for years without number, it is hard to credit the statement of Prof. W. I. Myers of Cornell that there will be "an international scramble for food after the war ends."

"If the United States," says Professor Myers, "were called upon to feed Europe as in the first World War it would be necessary to decrease our own food consumption or increase production, or both."

While it is doubtless true that millions of people in Europe and the Orient are today badly fed or even close to starvation, it is also true that it is the war itself which has had a tremendous adverse effect on agricultural production. Vast numbers of men have been taken from the fields to go into armies or into plants making munitions. In many lands what used to be farms are now occupied by troops.

But when the conflict is over, the presumption is that agricultural activities will quickly reach normal proportions again. In that event, will we not encounter once more a situation where supply is likely to exceed demand? Certainly in view of improved methods of farming, better machinery, fertilizers, etc., it takes a vivid imagination to visualize "a scramble for food," for any long period at least.

But if the scramble does come, there are few in the United States who will not welcome the end of a policy of plowing under each third row and the arrival of an era when decent prices will prevail for crops. Especially will this latter situation be welcome to New Hanover county farmers.

Democracy Functions

Some people have their eyes so firmly fixed on some doom they see far ahead waiting for democracy, that they overlook the fact it's functioning right here and now.

When the draft act was passed last year, it was thoroughly debated for months. Every argument for it and against it was given full play time and again. Then, after the most complete kind of discussion, public and private, official and unofficial, the duly elected representatives of the people passed it by a broad margin.

If the passage of that act, revolutionary departure as it was from traditional American principles, did not represent the will of the American people, in what possible way could that will have been better expressed?

Similarly, the lend-lease bill. Since the draft act of last year, there has been a congressional election. A good share of the senators and representatives now on the floor have been to their constituencies for acceptance or rejection. New members were elected by people who had one eye on European developments and the ways in which they might affect the United States. Now comes the lend-lease bill.

No one can say both sides of this proposed legislation have not had every conceivable opportunity to present their cases. A continual parade of witnesses, for and against, qualified and unqualified, expert and inexperienced, statistical and emotional, has passed through the committee rooms of both house and senate. Every conceivable scrap of information, every imaginable point of view, have been spread publicly before the legislators and the country.

The President, apparently feeling the criticism that followed last year's destroyer transfer, for which he did not go to congress for authority, appears to have made an especial point of keeping out of this pending legislation. Amendments have been proposed, argued, and some have been accepted. The

people, through letters to congress and the newspapers, have had their direct say, aside from the official debate.

Soon the lend-lease bill will pass, or it will not pass. Whichever is the result, it is hard indeed to see how democratic process could have had more deference, how any possible means has been overlooked to make certain that the decision is the deliberate decision of the majority of the American people.

So, while we moan gently to ourselves about the fate of democracy in the future, let's not overlook this pretty convincing demonstration of its vitality that is going on every day before our too often unseeing eyes.

Fewer Farms

In the terrific 10 years just passed, the whole number of farms in the United States declined 3.1 per cent, from 6,288,648 to 6,096,789. At the same time the average holding increased from 138 acres in 1910 to 174 acres today.

That is partly due to the fact that the dust bowl which we have been industriously creating in the southwest for many years has at last begun to take its toll of blasted hopes and ruined homesteads.

All this means fewer of the kind of men who are solid proprietors standing with their feet on their own land. Such men are the backbone of any country. To make it worse, experts now believe that with high-powered production methods, half as many farmers as labor today could produce all the food the country needs.

People living on the land have a value to the country far beyond the mere food they produce. They have a stability, a solidness, shown by no other kind of people. Thus every effort to devise new ways of living on the soil, or farm life not merely as a business but as a way of living, is a contribution to national stability, and deserves encouragement.

A.E.F. Comes Home

The last of the 2,000,000 soldiers who went from the United States to France during the World War are only now, more than 20 years later, straggling home.

Many American soldiers stayed behind when the A. E. F. came home. They married French girls, and settled in Paris or in the little towns and villages they had come to know. At a rate of 100 a week the Red Cross is now moving them and their families to Lisbon on their way to the country most of them have not seen in 20 years, and which their wives and children have never seen.

It is a tragic end to 20 years of effort to build a life in another land to which they had become attached. But of course the German conquest which wiped out so many Frenchmen has wiped out these Americans, too. Thus a thin trickle of good French blood is being added to our national life, and welcome it is, just as these veterans of the A. E. F. are welcome, though their homecoming has been so long delayed.

Editorial Comment

REPUBLICAN SCHISM
Durham Herald

It wasn't more than a few months ago that we were witnesses of what apparently was a schism of good size in the Democratic party while the Republican party members stood solidly together. That was a few months ago. Now the situation seems the reverse. It's the Republican party which has the schism. The schism is quite simple and clearly defined. On the one side are the progressive members of the party who want to shake it up to a more realistic attitude toward foreign and domestic affairs. On the other side are the more conservative members who believe that isolation is still possible, and whose attitude toward domestic affairs is characterized by distinct conservatism. They can't get an other.

The hope of the party for the future is its younger and more progressive element, that element which is in tune with times, which does not hold to a policy simply because it might have been proved the best policy at a given time in the past, which believes that men should look at a problem in its relation to current conditions, which has a great reverence for the past and the teachings of history but which can choose from the past what is good for the present and toss aside the other. This element is the hope of the Republican party, and Wendell Willkie is its leader.

Willkie spoke wisely when he said that the party will never regain national power if it clings to outmoded theories and practices. Old line Republicans may point to the last Presidential campaign as proof that the people are turning in ever increasing numbers to the Republican banner. They may point out that had it not been for the international crisis Republican administration would be in power today.

But they might not be entirely right. Those 22,000,000 people who cast their votes for the Republican candidates may not have been voting their desire for a Republican administration. Some of them were voting their desire not to break the third term tradition. Others were voting purely for Willkie. Perhaps they would have enjoyed voting for Willkie more had he been anything but a Republican.

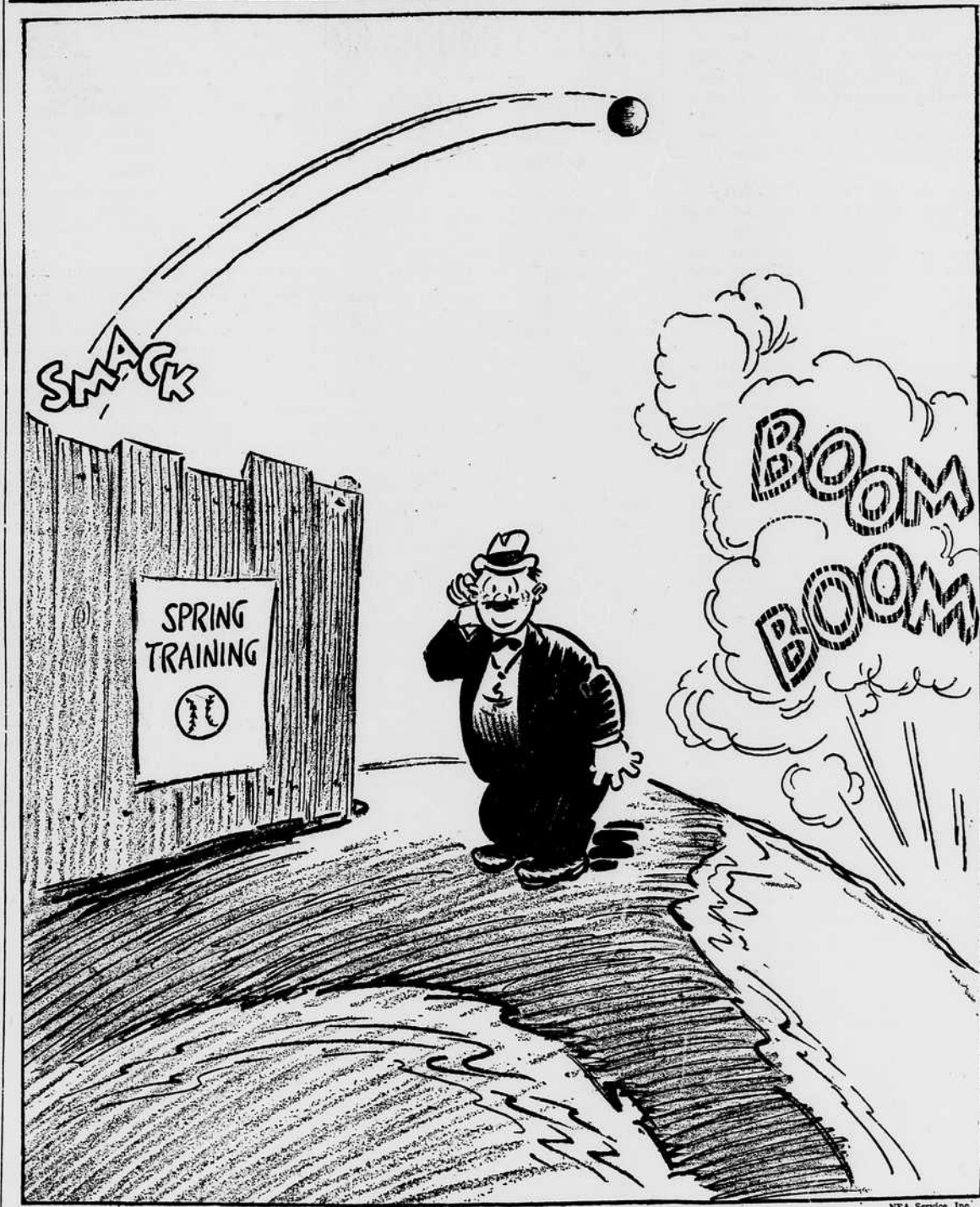
Republicans would do well to heed the warnings of those who have spoken against the party's conservatism and who would spruce it up a bit.

Quotations

Paying a man \$5 a day for expenses makes staying way from home attractive, and matrimony suffers. —Gov. Chas. Clark, Idaho, on an economy program.

You could take nearly 4,000,000 people off the farms today and you wouldn't interfere with production. —R. M. Evans, AAA administrator.

'GEE, THAT'S A PLEASANT SOUND'



The Editor's Letter Box

The editor does not necessarily endorse any article appearing in this department. They represent the views of the individual readers. Correspondents are warned that all communications must contain the correct name and address for our records, though the latter may be signed as the writer sees fit. The Star-News reserves the right to alter any text that for any reason is objectionable. Letters on controversial subjects will not be published.

HOLLY RIDGE TRAFFIC

To The Star:—Driving to Holly Ridge at 6 p. m. or driving from Holly Ridge to Wilmington at 6 a. m. is a very tiresome job because one has the light constantly glaring in his eyes the entire distance. Occasionally one has to almost stop or get in the ditch to let some speedster pass.

Three or four times the writer had to almost stop and once was forced to get on the shoulder of the highway in order to avoid an accident. Many of the drivers cut in and out of traffic, thereby making it unsafe for traffic going in the opposite direction. The eye strain is terrific because so many of the drivers do not dim their car headlights.

Because of the practice of some drivers cutting in and out of traffic and of the closeness of the cars in line of traffic, the writer fears that an accident will happen at any time which will involve three or more cars. It is my belief that some of the drivers do not allow themselves enough time to get to their work; therefore, they take chances on fast and reckless driving in order to get to work on time. This practice constitutes a nuisance for which there is no excuse. "Rushing work in a manner that it cannot be properly done and delaying it until it 'rushes' the worker."

M. H. PERKINS.
620 Queen Street,
Wilmington, N. C.

LEONARD APPEALS FOR N. C. ECONOMY

Secretary of Fair Tax Association Addresses Ramsour Business Men

RAMSEUR, Feb. 17. — (AP) — Paul Leonard, secretary of the North Carolina Fair Tax association, urged a meeting of business men here tonight to insist upon a policy of economy in the operation of the state.

"The general assembly," he declared, "is flitting with fiscal disaster when it increases appropriations to the point that all surpluses in the state treasury are exhausted, and increased revenue from an artificial prosperity created by defense spending is anticipated as a certainty."

In the last decade, Leonard said, citing statistics, the state "has increased its public spending and tax load all out of proportion to our increase in wealth and population, and far beyond the paying ability of the taxpayers."

Asserting that the "emergency" under which the sales tax was adopted had long passed he claimed credit for the Fair Tax association for "creating the public sentiment which made the sales tax an issue in this last campaign and now makes almost certain that its back will be broken

Man About Manhattan

By GEORGE TUCKER

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—If you think everything happens to you, consider the plight of the poor taxi driver I encountered today. Twice in two days he has been overwhelmed by events that were none of his choosing. He was just an innocent bystander.

Last Thursday night he was parked on Fifth Ave. at 49th street waiting for a fare. A roadster tore past and as he followed it with his gaze he was horrified to see two bodies tumble from it. "It happened so fast," he explained, "that for a moment I thought a couple of drunks had toppled out of the rumble seat. But they weren't drunks. They weren't even in the car. They were pedestrians and that hit-and-run roadster had knocked them down."

The cabby went on to say his first impulse had been to rush them to a hospital. But in New York, a very big city, picking up bodies has complications. It might be difficult to prove that YOU weren't the one who knocked them down.

Fortunately, however, another cabby ran up and said, "I saw that guy. I'll be a witness." The victims therefore were speedily taken to a big mid-town hospital. But this hospital had no emergency entrance, and the driver was told he would have to go up to the third floor to see about having the patients received. Angered, he rushed around the corner to another hospital that had less red tape.

But his troubles were only beginning. He then had to hurry to the police station and report the

accident. The police received his report with skepticism, despite the accompanying driver's corroboration. Fortunately the roadster's bracket mirror had been knocked off, and after a detective checked to see that the cabby's mirror was intact, he was released.

That was Thursday night. Friday night he drove from a mid-town address to Amsterdam avenue, and quickly returned to his downtown stand. When he checked into the taxi's garage about 3 a. m., the other drivers in the fleet began clustering around him excitedly, crying, "Haven't the cops picked you up yet?"

When he ascertained that his colleagues were in earnest, he hurried away to the police station to find out the trouble. It seemed that just as he dropped his fares at Amsterdam avenue two men had held up a corner store and escaped. An eye-witness to the robbery had noted that a green Packard cab at that moment had turned around and driven away. He jotted down the cab's number.

A few moments later the bandits held up another store further uptown, and escaped again, and about an hour later held up still another store and escaped—in a green Packard cab. Nobody got the license number, this time but the inference was obvious.

It took our driver a lot of explaining to convince the police that he was innocent, but they finally released him.

"Not only that," moaned the driver, "but think of all the time I lost. That hit-and-run driver and those stick-up bums cost me five or six bucks, easy."

National Defense Registration Will Be Conducted In Onslow

JACKSONVILLE, Feb. 17.—A voluntary registration of men and women in Onslow county to make available a record of their abilities and willingness to cooperate in the national defense program was decided upon last Friday at a meeting of a county-wide committee of leading citizens.

At the same time a group from the committee met with the Onslow County Board of Commissioners in special session to approve WPA projects also in connection with national defense and Camp Davis. The projects provide for recreation, adult and child education and lunchrooms.

The purpose of the county-wide committee is to determine community resources and needs for national defense. Members of the committee are: Mrs. C. W. Sutton, Richlands, chairman, Mrs. Marie Sabiston, secretary, J. J. Cole, A. H. Hatfield, J. W. Burton, Miss Laura Matthews, Dr. J. P. Henderson, M. A. Cowell, Mrs. T. B. Koonce, Mayor C. E. Warn, H. J. Jones, Bruce Simmons, Hugh Overstreet, Miss Ruth Rhyme, Miss Anne Hildreth, Mrs. A. G. Sewell and Billy Arthur all of Jacksonville; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Sylvester and Mrs. Ed Smith of Richlands. A sub-committee on defense is composed of Cowell, chairman, Sylvester, Mrs. Sewell, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Koonce.

by the present finance committee plan to exempt all food or a reduction of the tax to two per cent by amendment to the revenue bill when it is considered by the senate

The voluntary registration will be headed by Miss Rhyme, home demonstration agent, and from it information will be available on the tasks women and men, not covered by selective service, can perform and the amount of time they can devote to jobs in connection with national defense. The information will be on file in the city hall.

The WPA projects provide for athletics, game rooms and other recreational facilities for Camp Davis soldiers to use when they come to Jacksonville; adult education to teach illiterates to read and write, child education in the form of nursery schools; and lunchrooms for children in school. In the latter connection farm women will be encouraged to maintain gardens and can foods for consumption by school children.

All this is to better prepare the local population and make them healthier for national defense, it was said.

Denmark Will Protest Against Ship Seizures

COPENHAGEN (Via Berlin). — (AP) — Feb. 17.—The government of Denmark has decided to protest against confiscation of three Danish steamships by the Chilean government, DNB, the official German news agency, reported today. The foreign ministry, DNB said, had instructed the Danish minister to Chile to submit "energetic protest" and demand restoration of the ships.

CAPT. CANTWELL LAUDED IN PAPER

Eulogy to Late Coast Guard Officer Published in the Alumni Bulletin

A stirring eulogy to the life and accomplishments of Captain John Cassin Cantwell, one of the outstanding officers of the United States Coast Guard service, is contained in a recent issue of the U. S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association Bulletin, copies of which have been received in Wilmington by relatives of the late captain.

Capt. Cantwell, a cousin of Robert C. Cantwell, Jr., of 513 Market street, and the Misses Anna and Lenora Cantwell, of 814 Princess, died last October, and was buried at sea, with full Coast Guard honors, just outside San Francisco's Golden Gate.

Born in Raleigh in 1859, the son of an early Carolina family, John Cantwell went to sea as a young boy, and in 1880 was appointed a cadet in the Revenue Cutter service, progenitor of the now-famous Coast Guard. For 40 years he served the service in varying capacities, achieving eventually the rating of senior captain of the entire service.

A talented writer as well as a skilled seaman, Capt. Cantwell's accounts of exploits of the coast guard are considered even today invaluable documents in the archives of the service. His book, "Report On The Operations Of The U. S. Revenue Cutter Nunnivak On The Yukon River Station," was perhaps the finest account of then-little-known Alaska.

Closing his tribute to Capt. Cantwell, published in the Academy Bulletin, Harry W. Frantz, noted National Geographic magazine writer, had this to say about Capt. Cantwell:

"There will be no stone marker over Captain Cantwell's grave. But there will be memory in the sunlit blue of the Pacific off the Golden Gate. There will be remembrance in the white sails of passing ships, and the silver hulls of the soaring clipper; and by nights in the shining stars. Distant foghorns and the toll of buoy-bells will bring echoes from his friendly soul."

"And when in lonely seas, harassed sailors battle with the storm until some swift cutter brings rescue, thoughtful men will know that there is in fact a Coast Guard spirit, a spirit born of brave lives through fifteen past decades of Captain John Cassin Cantwell and 19,000 other officers not unlike him."

STUDY OF CIVIL SERVICE PLANNED

Broughton Says He Will Ask Solons to Authorize Survey of Proposal

RALEIGH, Feb. 17.—(AP) — Governor Broughton said today he would ask the legislature to authorize a study of the possibility of establishing a state civil service plan under which North Carolina employees would be required to take merit examinations.

The plan contemplated probably would include all state employees, with the exception of school teachers, who already are required to have certain credentials in the form of certificates from schools or colleges.

Broughton said he would send a message to the legislature asking that the study be made, either by some existing state agency or by some specially appointed commission.

The body conducting the study would report to the 1943 general assembly, which might take steps to make merit examinations mandatory.

The governor pointed out that certain state agencies which are financed partially by federal funds—such as the UCC, the board of health, and the welfare department—already are covered by merit examination requirements, under federal regulations.

"We are gradually getting into merit examinations in part," he said, "and I think we should see whether we should have them in whole. There is justification for the merit examination plan, in view of the fact that we are establishing a retirement system."

Grand Jury Releases Negro In Arson Case

The New Hanover county grand jury, meeting concurrently in the courthouse with the special term of the county criminal court, yesterday cleared Elliot Douglas, Wilmington negro, of suspicion in the arson death here last month of a young negro woman, fatally burned in a rooming house fire.

The grand jury, presided over by L. D. Latta, foreman, returned a no true bill in the Douglas case. Douglas had been ordered held for grand jury action by a coroner's jury after Marshal Edwards, 18, died from burns suffered when her room was set afire.

A no true bill was found, also, in the case of auto theft charges preferred against Jim Nixon. The jury remained in session late this afternoon, and probably will reconvene at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

The Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Canada, is the tallest building in the British Empire.