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CARROLL WILSON, Owner and Editor

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EDITORIAL

LAWMAKERS CAN BE WRONG

● ● We never thought just because a majority of the people voted in a group of legislators that everything those legislators did was perfectly right. After all, they are human beings and make mistakes just like all the rest of us.

Nothing has happened to confirm this belief more than the amendment which the last session of the N. C. legislature put on the State unemployment compensation act, when they tacked onto that act a clause which prevented folks from drawing compensation when they were thrown out of jobs because of fire, flood, tornado, etc.

On the Sunday when the flood was at its peak around Roanoke Rapids, this writer went on the radio and appealed for proper aid to those of our folks here who would be out of work on account of the flood. The reason was we knew they could not get what they deserved under the law as it was amended. We knew they deserved it; but what you sometimes deserve and what you actually get are still sometimes two different things.

We are glad to say that the Commission, which has the final say in these matters, ruled yesterday that those folks, whose jobs are gone until the mills start running again, will draw compensation insurance starting last Thursday. We are glad to hope that this ruling means death to that unfair amendment when the next legislature meets. We are happy to report that folks, who were worried about where they were going to get the money for next week's grocery bill, need worry no more. Lawmakers can be wrong but under our form of government lawmakers can correct a wrong. This will be done.

Meantime, get in touch with every person properly entitled to compensation and tell them to go to the local office and file claim. There are many of our folks, who live in other sections of the county, in other counties and even in Virginia, who do not know yet of the new ruling. You help your fellow worker by getting in touch with him or her right now.

PENALIZING PATRIOTISM

● ● We have read, listened and waited patiently to the debate in the U. S. Senate on the conscription bill.

That is the American way of settling questions: the right of free speech and debate. So we have waited patiently.

As we write this our patience nears the breaking point because those against conscription are presenting nothing new in the debate. All the arguments of pacifists and of anti-Americans (note we separate the two) are just being rehashed. Those Senators who oppose conscription may be put in three classes: (1) those few who honestly believe in their convictions; (2) those few

HE HUFFED AND HE PUFFED—



who are at heart guided by anti-American principles; and (3) those many who, because of minority pressure groups, think it politically expedient to oppose the bill.

Down here in North Carolina and the South, we do not quite understand why sane Senators would argue that the volunteer system is best, sufficient and democratic. Our boys down here are volunteering but what about the boys up there in New York State, populous Pennsylvania, the teeming Middle States and those in the wild, wild West?

Under the volunteer system which some Senators want to keep, we believe official figures of the past few months will show that, on a population basis, their States have fallen far below quotas and far below the filled quotas of the South.

Why should the South furnish our army and navy? What is democratic about one section of the country defending all the other sections?

By this time we hope the Senate has realized the unfairness of this and has passed the conscription bill which will take a few from each section, on the basis of population, to the detriment of no one section. That is the only fair, efficient and American way to handle the situation.

GIVE US WATER

● ● Until we have gotten complete information we do not intend to print anything critical about the acute water situation as affecting Roanoke Rapids and Weldon. But we do intend here and now to warn those who are responsible for an adequate water supply at all times to protect the public.

Such a water supply is the most important thing that any community must have. For drinking, cooking, washing, bathing and other sanitary necessities there is nothing else so necessary. Our health, our eating, our very living, depend upon clean, pure water . . . and water enough. If you doubt that, ask our neighbors in Weldon where our Sanitary District is supposed to furnish raw water; this to save us the cost of a sewage disposal plant.

We have been told that, had a fire of any big proportion, broken out in either Roanoke Rapids or Weldon the first part of this week, there would not have been enough water to put it out. That is a serious situation.

We have been told that the pumping equipment was insufficient to handle such an emergency as followed the flood. We say: get enough equipment to handle any emergency and keep that equipment in proper shape should the emergency arise. There is nothing so important as our water supply. If more pumps are needed, get them. What is a pump or two as compared to the health, well-being and safety of thousands of people?

More Parking Problems

● There is a question which bothers us and we ask you to figure it out. Is Hamilton Street narrower than other paved streets of the city or is it just because there are more cars parked on both sides of Hamilton Street?

There are at least two blocks on Hamilton Street (we leave you to drive thru and figure out) where it is a right smart job to pass a car because of the stream of parked cars on both sides of the street.

We have had plenty to say about folks using Roanoke Avenue as garage space: leaving cars parked there day and night. Now Hamilton is getting just about as bad (in spots).

We suggest that in those congested areas, those who use the street as a garage decide to use one side of the street only, thus leaving enough room for two moving cars to safely pass on same street. After all, those are public streets, not private parking lots.

LETTERS from Our Readers

Letters should be short and to the point. Their content does not necessarily express the views of the newspaper. However, we reserve the right to use short letters of expressions on any matter of general public interest from any Herald subscriber. All must be signed.

J. MELVILLE BROUGHTON
Attorney and Counsellor at Law
501-505 Lawyers Building
Raleigh, N. C.

August 24, 1940

Mr. Carroll Wilson, Editor
Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina

I have been much disturbed to read about the devastating damage caused in that section by the unprecedented overflow of the Roanoke River. It has been particularly disturbing to read of the hardship that has been caused to so many families, as well as the large damage caused to some of your leading industries and to property owners.

I desire to express to you, and through your paper, my sympathetic interest in this situation and my earnest desire to cooperate in any way that I can.

While the immediate need is to relieve the distress, I think that when this task is accomplished we should give some consideration to the problem of avoiding any recurrence of such conditions. Of course, weather conditions and the rise of the river are things that are beyond our control. However, it may be possible through cooperation with State and Federal agencies and by means of engineering, advice and assistance to set up some measure of flood control, which will eliminate, or at least alleviate such conditions in the future.

Sincerely,
J. M. Broughton.

BUYER MEETS
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COLUMNS