

# Legislative Summary

With April 15 (and more definite revenue information) fast approaching, the spotlight of legislative interest is swinging back to budgetary matters this week. The two appropriations committees, having completed their joint hearings, received word that Governor Hodges will present a plan for teacher-pay increases "within the next few days." After a long period of uncertainty, legislative leaders were quoted as confident that budget issues have narrowed to a point where they should be resolved quickly.

These reports, plus steady progress in other areas (as of Friday, the General Assembly was some 200 bills ahead of the 1955 legislature in introductions and 70 bills ahead in ratifications), have raised hope of early adjournment. But the lead results entirely from the number of local bills; final action has been taken on only 56 of the 411 public bills and resolutions introduced, and many important proposals have not yet come out of committee. Speaker Doughton hinted that an extra House session may be scheduled next week to clear its public calendar.

The week was marked by a steady drumfire of debate — on

Confederate widows' pensions, enlargement of JP jurisdiction, and reapportionment in the Senate; on urban redevelopment, prison separation, and driver license revocation in the House. Of the new bills, the perennial auto inspection proposal drew the most interest.

### State Government

A surprise move to rewrite the reapportionment proposals delayed vote on the measures until next Wednesday. Shortly after the bills appeared on the Senate floor, Senator Whitmire and 19 others sent forward an amendment to SB 47 (which would increase House membership to 130 and limit any one county to two Senators); they suggested instead that House membership be cut to 100 (one per county) and Senate membership be increased to 60, allocated on a population basis. The amendment bears strong resemblance to the proposal of editor Weimar Jones (who filed a dissent to the Weather Commission report on ground that it did not go far enough).

In the House, the prison-separation measure met its first major test on Thursday. After almost an hour of parliamentary thrust and parry, the measure passed on sec-

ond reading, but backers were forced to give assurances that the costs of an independent prison system will continue to be borne by the Highway Fund. Opponents of separation were strong enough to block final action until next week. Meanwhile, a Senate committee reported out a committee substitute for the work-release bill prepared by prison authorities. The substitute would make the plan available to misdemeanants only, but would widen its geographical coverage by authorizing prison officials to make arrangements for housing such prisoners in local jails where prison system facilities were not available.

### Local Government

Only the strong support of representatives from the eastern counties (interested in federal hurricane-relief funds) saved the Urban Redevelopment bill from defeat in the House. Vigorous protests that the federal government was dictating state policy served only to foster a resolution asking that the government refrain from undertaking new grants-in-aid programs and cut back on existing programs, as proponents of the measure beat down a series of crippling amendments. Delegations from big-city counties split on the measure. A bill enabling counties to construct water and sewer systems cleared the House without difficulty.

Preparation of jury lists would be transferred from county commissioners to a jury commissioner appointed by the resident superior court judge, under a Judicial Council proposal submitted in the Senate. Other bills of interest to county officials would (a) require automobile owners to list their cars for ad valorem taxes as a prerequisite to registration by the Department of Motor Vehicles and (b) permit counties to pay counsel fees of election officials who are sued because of their official actions.

### Motor Vehicles

Hoping to escape the curse that has befallen all such proposals since the ill-fated mechanical inspection system of 1947, HB 547 would make major changes in the earlier system. It would require annual inspections of all automobiles by private garages (licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles) rather than by state personnel, and only the registration, brakes, lights, steering mechanism, windshield wiper, and horn would be checked.

As a result of adverse reaction to the "felony racing" bill introduced some time ago, Representative Whitley introduced a measure to denote "prearranged" racing and spontaneous racing on the highways as two levels of misdemeanors. The first would be punishable by a \$200 fine and license revocation for a year; the latter by a \$50 fine and possible license suspension. In both cases there would be a possibility of imprisonment.

A sharp House debate resulted in tabling of a bill which would have had the effect of transferring the Department of Motor Vehicles' authority to suspend licenses to the

trial judge hearing a case. A House committee heard three hours of argument on the merits of compulsory insurance, without taking action.

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Last year many local officials were surprised to learn that approval of the Governor and Council of State is required before local governments can purchase vehicles costing more than \$1500. This week a measure was introduced to raise the limit to the more realistic figure of \$2000.

The public school laws, completely revised during the 1955 session, were subjected to a barrage of eight bills making further revisions on Friday. School boards would (a) be permitted to take title to activity buses and waive tort immunity (while taking out insurance coverage) with respect

# Garden Time

By M. E. GARDNER

I very much enjoy reading old books. I have just finished thumbing through one which I found interesting. It was written in 1885 by F. B. Elliott and is entitled, "Handbook of Practical Landscape Gardening". This is a second edition, the first appearing in 1877. The reason for quoting the passages which follow is to point out that, basically, our ideas of beauty, utility, good taste and proportion have not changed much.

"The value of everything that approaches the beautiful, is enhanced by an appropriate setting. Even the most beautiful flower of nature is improved by its sur-

rounding of delicately tinted green foliage. "Woman in all her beauty is rendered even more attractive in a setting of appropriate colors and forms of dress; and woe be to the taste of a blonde who, robing herself in light blue, seeks to decorate for relief with coral ornaments. The opaque red, to use a common phrase, would be 'dreadful'; while the use of a pale pink would light up and dispel the pallid moonshine of the blue, and give to all a rich pearly, hazy, rosy hue, as of early morn . . .

"There are many amateurs whose minds are open to conviction and inclined to truth, but whose powers of observation are not sufficient to enable them to discover what is right and appropriate, until it is pointed out to them . . .

"The art of composition in Landscape Gardening has certain principles which go towards forming a unity of the whole, and from which no deviation can be made without marring the result. Taste may be possessed in a greater or less degree; but without reference to principles, it will fail to create a design of harmonious proportion or association."

I believe that you will agree with Mr. Elliott's quotes. While architectural design has drastically changed in recent years, the basic principles of beauty, utility, good taste and proportion in landscaping your home have not. If you are planning a new home or changing your present landscape scheme; plan your work and work your plan.

Southeast Asian nations are said to misuse aid.

### PLANE LANDS IN AUTO LOT

New York—Robert A. Shaver, 20, of Queens, took off from an airport in a rented plane at 9:50 a. m., on a cross-country flight. As he neared Connecticut, the plane developed engine trouble and he was forced to turn back. The first level clearing he saw was a parking lot, nearly empty of automobiles. Shaver set the plane down between a long row of lamp posts. He was unhurt.

### DISASTER AID

Federal disaster relief to states in the past two-and-a-half years totaled \$31,900,000 more than for the three previous years, according to a report to Congress by President Eisenhower. The heavy increase was attributed to the decided jump in "major" natural disasters requiring Federal relief, and also to the fact that states recently have been availing themselves of more Federal disaster funds.

### Do not over fertilize your tobacco. Determine the analysis and rate per acre of fertilizer used through soil testing or other information available as a result of tobacco research.

The Soviet news agency Tass has accused France and Israel of plotting new military blows against Egypt, and warned that this could touch off a major war.

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# 2-Absolute Auctions-2

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**GRADY WATSON FARM**  
 44 acres subdivided. Long road frontage. 7 room house, bath. Large barn and outbuildings. Well watered. About 15 acres young pine timber. On school bus route. 1 mile from church. Personal property: some furniture, farm tools, 3 milk cows, 2 calves.

**Second Sale —**  
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