

CAPITAL CLIPBOARD

Governor's Tax Cut Proposal Comes As Legislative Surprise

By EULA N. GREENWOOD
SURPRISE . . . The Governor's state-of-the-State and budget messages were pretty much what was expected.

The big surprise was his suggestion that we have tax reduction. If it comes this one will likely affect the lowest income groups. It had been broadly predicted here and everywhere else that there would be no request for NEW taxes. The reference to a lowering was a shocker and showed once again that the Governor likes the pattern of the national administration.

Others may see it differently, but we thought the Governor went out of his way in his state-of-the-State address to give the State Utilities Commission a friendly pat on the head. Since a hard-knuckles fight is mounting between the electric cooperatives and the privately owned companies, we felt the Governor might side-step this one. But, as it now stands, he may well be right in the middle of it.

SIDELIGHT . . . An interesting side-show to the main event in the cooperatives-utilities battle is this:

On one side is young Robert Scott, son of the late Governor W. Kerr Scott, and, like his father, Master of the State Grange and friend of the co-ops. On the other side is the chairman of the State Utilities Commission, Harry Westcott. He is a Dare county native who came to the N. C. Agriculture Department as a marketing specialist.

He was an all-out Scott supporter, and whip-smart to match. So, he was named to the State Utilities Commission—by Good Friend W. Kerr Scott.

CAN BE SHORT . . . If the legislators don't get mired down in redistricting, they can make this one of the shortest sessions in years. Money, usually the time-consumer, is no problem. They get paid for four months—and can be home by June 1 with little effort.

SENATOR RALPH . . . One of the strongest men in the Legislature this time . . . or any other time, for that matter . . . is Sen. Ralph Scott of Burlington.

Keep your eye on him in various free-for-alls. A dairyman and business leader, he has been coming to the State Senate off and on since 1951. He loves a good fight. To Grange Master Bob, he is

Uncle Ralph. He helped out Brother Kerr in the late Governor's second legislative go-round in 1951. But he didn't agree with him 100 per cent on everything, has a mind of his own, and may or may not pitch camp with Robert Scott.

GRANDPA TRUMAN . . . Former President Truman is scheduled to become a grandfather again some time in April.

The Truman's only daughter, Margaret, is infatigating. Her husband is E. C. Daniels, Jr., and they have two boys, hope this one will be a girl.

E. C., an executive editor with the New York Times, has been out of work since last fall when his paper was closed down by the strike. This gives him a lot of time to play with his two sons and to help his missus with the dishes.

RALEIGH SPEAKER . . . Retiring on March 1 as manager of the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, Lester Rose will devote much of his time to the professional speaking business.

No chamber of commerce manager in these parts of the South has done a better job than Lester Rose. He will continue as secretary of the exclusive Sphinx Club, Raleigh male and legislative hangout in the innards of the Hotel Sir Walter. He will also continue his duties as secretary of the Highway No. 1 Association. Also—he will continue to speak.

ENTERED AT 25 . . . Dr. Douglas M. Branch, general secretary of the Baptist State Convention, was killed a few days ago when his little station wagon plowed into another vehicle which had suddenly stalled in the middle of the highway.

Like many another man before him, including the late Robert Frost, Dr. Branch was well along in life before Success took up with him.

He was 25 years old and married before he was able to go to college. This tells you volumes about his wife, the former Jessie Averitte Walker of Windsor, as well as about himself.

HOW? . . . A little over three years after entering Wake Forest College he graduated with an average grade of above 90. Twenty-five years later, almost to the day, he succeeded gray, oaken Dr. M. A. Huggins as general secretary of the Convention.

The death of Dr. Branch—how it actually happened—remains a mystery; and perhaps always will. He was a great champion of seat belts, had made talks for Statewide use for the N. C. Traffic Safety Council. He was riding alone. It was in the middle of the day. It had been snowing, was raining, but vision was good. His body was removed so hastily to get him to the hospital that nobody knows whether his seat belt was fastened.

LONER . . . Although Dr. Branch had thousands of loyal friends, he was somewhat of a loner at times. We often saw him on the streets here in Raleigh, but seldom with friends. We have observed him eating by himself, apparently in deep thought. He was a handsome man, very handsome, with easy manners and poise. Dr. Branch gave the Baptists the kind of vigorous leadership they need at all times.

When deep losses hit us, we search for consolation. Claude Gaddy, grief-stricken over the recent loss of his wife, will be busy as replacement for Dr. Branch. Hard, active work, they say, is the enemy of sadness.

Also, the death of the Baptist leader could be the blow which will drive through the General Assembly seat belt requirements for all cars.

Stills In Wilkes, Watauga Raided

North Wilkesboro, Feb. 8—Officers of the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax division office at North Wilkesboro reported yesterday two raids on illegal stills during the early part of the week, one resulting in an arrest and the seizure of a pickup truck.

The latest raid took place Wednesday night in the Sampson section of Watauga County, near the Caldwell County line. The still was a 13-box outfit and it was destroyed, along with a quantity of mash.

Rhonda Island Bradshaw, 34, of Lenoir, Rt. 8, was arrested. His pickup truck and a quantity of whisky were seized. A Tuesday raid in the Ill Creek section of Wilkes County Tuesday resulted in destruction of an 85-gallon still and 400 gallons of mash.

Fifteen gallons of non-taxpaid whisky were seized, but no arrests were made.

ASTC Gets \$11,130 In NSF Grant

The sum of \$11,130 has been granted by the National Science Foundation to Appalachian State Teachers College for support of an "Undergraduate Instructional Scientific Equipment Program," under the direction of Dr. F. Ray Derrick, chairman of the department of biology at Appalachian.

Announcement of the grant was made today by Dr. William H. Plemmons, president of Appalachian. In accepting the grant for the college, Dr. Plemmons said, "Please accept our thanks and express them to all the others concerned (National Science Foundation) for the funds made available and the confidence expressed by this grant. Such actions are of great encouragement to us. We are grateful."

Dr. Randal M. Robertson, acting director of the National Science Foundation, said that the grant is made with the understanding that the grantee will match with non-Federal funds at least fifty per cent of the direct costs of the program.

Dr. Derrick said that the funds will go to strengthen courses in plant physiology, animal physiology, micro technique, and the purchase of equipment for special problems in biology and research.

DILLON PREDICTS ACTION

Secretary of the Treasury Dillon says he thinks Congress will pass income tax cuts and revisions this year and in the form asked by President Kennedy.

Dillon said he expects some changes will be made by Congress but that he is highly hopeful the President's basic program will come through unscathed. He predicted the measure would clear the House by June 1.

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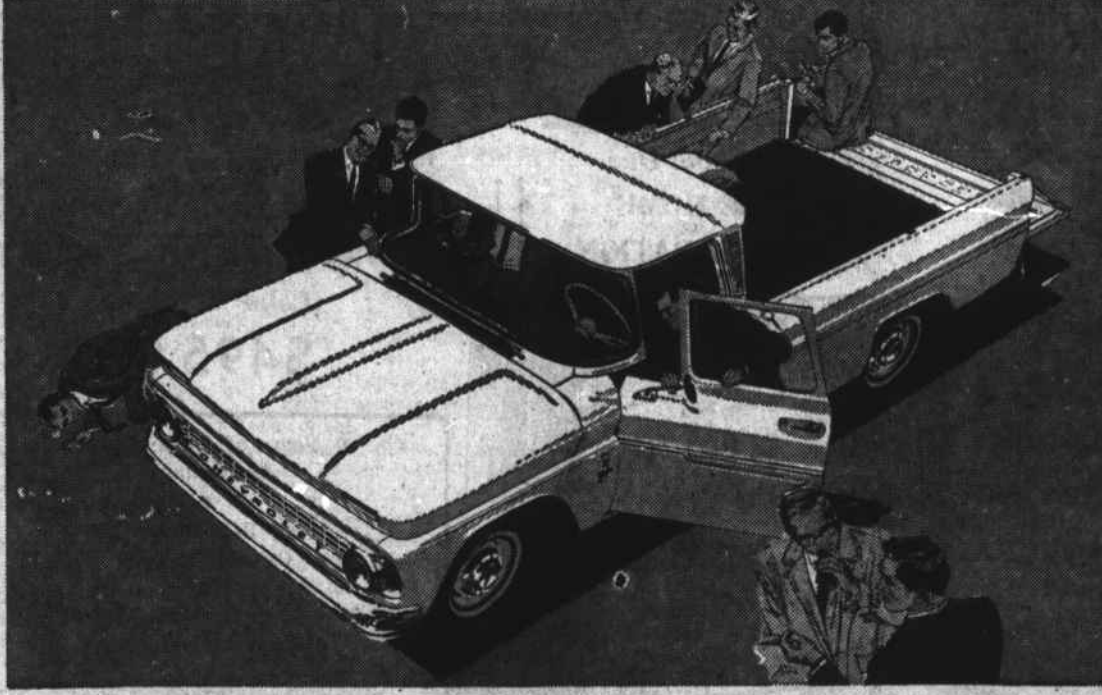
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