

**CAPITAL CLIPBOARD**

**Behavior Patterns Elusive As Assembly Goes To Third Month**

By EULA N. GREENWOOD

**PROTECTION . . .** Although the Legislature has now been in session for more than two months, very few definite behavior patterns have as yet been established.

We do observe, however, that the legislators are determined to do nothing which might interfere a great deal with the State's over-all income. Efforts to put holes into the sales tax by eliminating from it an item here and there have received little support. All efforts to take the sales tax off food have been utterly fruitless.

The road bond issues—the big mixup and confusion—are still in trouble. The school bond business is apparently getting little support. Thus we get the impression of financial conservatism.

Everybody knows that the 1963 General Assembly has the fewest money worries of any to meet here in a generation. For this, thanks go to Governor Terry Sanford who was instrumental in doing away with a long list of exemptions—most of them senseless—to the sales tax. Indications are that both houses of the Legislature want North Carolina to be free of financial worries for the next biennium.

In this thinking they are more thoughtful of the 1965 Legislature than some other sessions have been of their successors.

**OVER THEIR SHOULDERS**

. . . The importance of the Republicans is out of all proportion to their members in this General Assembly.

Rep. Henry Hill of Catawba County has been quoted as stating that one of the reasons the Democrats introduced the minimum wage bill of \$1 per hour in the first few hours of the session is that if they had not, the Republicans would have—thus stealing a march and gaining important political thunder for 1964.

Members of this current session seem to feel that the Republicans are looking over their shoulders at every move they make. Legislators representing the Democratic Party must think not only of the economic and educational effects of their actions. They must figure what effect they will have on 1964 elections.

**MORE AND LESS . . .**

House Speaker Clifton Blue must be regarded as probably the busiest man in the Legislature. But he isn't too busy to begin a campaign to be elected Lt. Governor next year. We hear almost as much about him as candidate now as we did as future Speaker two years ago.

The man who aspires to be Speaker for the next term must begin contacting his supporters during the current term. Members of the House elect their Speaker. But the people, not the legislators, elect the Lieutenant Governor. Gordon Greenwood, a little akin by marriage, is said to have 43 of the 120 members of the House lined up to vote for him as

Speaker of the House for 1965. These votes, however, are usually not as solid as the Rock of Gibraltar, so he must stay right with them. Meantime, Greenwood of Black Mountain could have serious opposition from Pat Taylor of Wadesboro, whose father was Lt. Governor several years ago, and from Dwight Quinn, also a veteran legislator, from Cabarrus County.

So, Speaker Blue obviously likes this presiding business, for as Lt. Governor he would preside over the State Senate and have much the same power over there that he now has in the House.

When the Legislature convened on February 6, Blue's name wasn't mentioned for the No. 2 spot. The candidates were said to be Ralph Scott of Burlington, Tom White of Winston, Lunsford Crew of Roanoke Rapids, and John R. Jordan, Jr. of Raleigh. They are all State Senators with long experience in that body.

We doubt that Tom White is as much of a candidate now as he was two months ago. You can hear that Sen. Crew is no longer interested in running for Lt. Governor . . . though this rumor may be in error. Ralph Scott won't run if Cousin Henry Jordan . . . no kin to John Jordan of Raleigh . . . runs for Governor.

The strong man of the 1963 Legislature is Tom White. He is in the Senate saddle all the way . . . and actually seems to be calling all the shots. Whether all this strength and responsibility have enhanced his popularity remains to be seen. So, as of right now the only two certain candidates for Lt. Governor are Blue and Jordan.

**LIFE-LINE . . .** As the State beefs up its junior and senior college programs in all areas of the State, we can see our fine denominational schools like Campbell College, Meredith, Atlantic Christian, Louisburg, etc., going the way of the academics 50 years ago.

New York State, seeing something similar happening up there, went to the rescue of the church colleges three years ago. The program is working out exceedingly well. New York threw out the life-line.

Now in North Carolina Governor Terry Sanford and Good Friends D. S. Coltrane, President Leslie Campbell of Campbell College and Brother Caryle, president of Meredith, are trying desperately to save the church colleges by having the State provide \$200 for each student enrolled in these denominational schools.

There is a 50-50 chance the bill will pass the Legislature. In many, many ways this is one of the most important pieces of legislation now before the General Assembly. Passage of this law would lift the 1963 Legislature from the level of mediocrity to which it has been assigned by so many of its critics.

Of course, the bill must run the old church-state gauntlet. But as we see it church-state is preferable to church-nothing. It grieves us to see consigned to

the trash heap our fine little colleges which nurtured us in our youth. And, it would seem that a State which could crush them through competition must feel some responsibility for their future well-being.

**NEXT OF KIN . . .** Bill Sharpe tells of this big old boy being processed for the service at Fort Bragg. He was asked the name of his nearest kin.

"Aunt Ella," he said. "Father and mother both dead?" inquired the interviewer.

"No, they are both living." "Well, you know your parents are closer kin than your aunt." "No, Sir. Aunt Ella lives here in Fayetteville. My parents live down in Lumberton."

**Southern Bell To Improve Its Facilities**

The Southern Bell Telephone Company, with its "plant" scattered over nine states, expects to improve and enlarge its facilities by \$350 million in 1963.

This expenditure, which is about the same as the record-breaking 1962 expenditure, was revealed by President Ben S. Gilmer of Atlanta.

Mr. Gilmer said the proposed multi-million dollar program is necessary because of continuing heavy telephone needs in the South up to the present and expectations of future heavy requirements for a variety of service.

About \$128 million is earmarked for new central office equipment, \$83 million for cables, poles and supplies for outside plant and \$14.5 million for land and buildings, among other items.

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