

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

NOTE: This is the seventh of a series of weekly summaries prepared by the legislative staff of the Institute of Government on the work of the North Carolina General Assembly of 1957. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.

Devotees of the three-ring circus would feel right at home in the General Assembly at this stage of the session. In the center ring there is a series of sharp floor debates; in the two side rings are the committee sessions and hotel lobby discussions where most of the hard legislative work is done. The only thing which might be thought lacking is a readily-identifiable ringmaster, and so far Governor Hodges seems to be filling this role successfully.

This week's biggest crowd was drawn to one of the side rings, where an estimated 3,000 people were on hand to hear the United Forces for Education present the case for a teacher pay raise to the joint Appropriations Committee. A parade of business representatives complained before the joint Finance Committee about tax changes proposed in the Revenue Bill—particularly with regard to the proposed shift to a gross receipts basis for computing privilege license taxes. Other committees wrangled over proposals to reorganize state government and to reappportion legislative representation.

Despite the noise and apparent confusion, the legislative process was grinding away. Bill introductions continued at a high level (highlighted by a proposal to protect victims of indigent drivers and revisions of election laws), while the total of ratified bills for the session rose to 159. The extraordinary rate of local bill introductions may slacken somewhat after Monday, which is the deadline under Senate rules for their submission in the upper house.

Motor Vehicles
As the toll of highway accidents has risen, legislators throughout the country have sought to protect the innocent victim of the indigent driver who cannot pay for the injury he causes. Massachusetts pioneered in this field with its famed compulsory insurance law of 1925. North Carolina has thus far shied away from that solution, experimenting instead with Financial Responsibility Laws in 1947 and 1953 which place the motorist in danger of losing his license after an accident if he fails to compensate his victims. This session a tougher approach seems in the making. Several weeks ago a compulsory insurance bill was introduced, and this week bills came in to create an "unsatisfied claims and judgments fund" by requiring uninsured motorists to pay an additional registration fee and insurers to pay a

percentage of their net written premiums from the previous year; the fund would then be available for payment of uncollectible claims to victims of motorists. The unsatisfied judgments fund plan apparently originated in Canada and has been tried in only two states thus far, but several legislatures are now considering similar proposals.

Meanwhile, proposed amendments of the Financial Responsibility Law would provide speedier hearing of court cases to review the Commissioner of Motor Vehicle's action in suspending a license upon failure to deposit security, and would require the return of the driver's security deposit and/or license after one year unless the Commissioner receives notice of a pending action or outstanding judgment against him.

Election Laws

Recent charges of unfair denial of voting privileges are reflected in bills providing for appeals to the county board of elections and thence to the courts by persons claiming they were arbitrarily denied registration; the measures would also eliminate the "grandfather clause" under which illiterate descendants of pre-Civil War voters could register (provided they did so by 1908). Another bill, introduced by the Mecklenburg delegation, would change the so-called "anti-Jonas" law so as to toss out ballots marked both in a party circle and for individual candidates of the other party; present law counts these ballots as a "straight ticket" for the party.

State Government

The numerous state government reorganization bills continued unhurried progress. The House Committee on State Government considered but deferred action on the Senate-passed bill creating a Department of Administration. The House passed the bill setting up a Division of General Services to replace the present Board of Public Buildings and Grounds. The Senate adopted a measure establishing new property management procedures for state agencies. And a joint hearing on separation of the prisons system from the Highway Department indicated considerable agreement on the idea of separation but much doubt as to the wisdom of placing an additional \$4 million burden on the hard-pressed General Fund in order to do so.

Another batch of Reorganization Commission bills was also intro-

ABUNDANT LIFE

BY ORAL ROBERTS



VICTIM OF CEREBRAL PALSY HEALED

Pity is a beautiful virtue, but compassion is lovelier. Pity extends sympathy and condolence, but compassion wraps her arms around the object.

The priest and the Levite had pity upon the Jew as he lay helpless by the wayside, but compassion came by in the person of the lowly Samaritan. Not satisfied to sympathize from afar, he went down into the ditch; made the dying man's problem his own personal business.

That is what motivates my ministry. I know what it is to be dying by the wayside—I had tuberculosis in both lungs. I know the pity and sympathy of loved ones and friends—but there is one who had compassion for me. He is the same one who had compassion upon a blind man named Bartimeus, upon a demoniac, a sinking disciple, a weeping widow, a dying thief. When he stopped by me one night and healed me, a compassion for other sufferers filled my soul.

For the past 10 years, a vibrant desire to tell others about him has sent me across this continent and around the world. I've felt the thrill of compassion over and over while ministering to the needy. When I'm able to help through faith and God's power, my soul leaps within me. I, too, have been a sufferer. I know the marvelous resources in the touch of the Master's hand.

Let me quote a letter from one who was helped through faith in God: "I took my young

granddaughter, Elizabeth, to your campaign for prayer. A birth injury had affected her brain. She was a retarded child. She couldn't talk; had no sense of balance; was unable to do anything for herself.

"While you prayed I held her in my arms. After you finished, I looked into her face. It was aglow with light! She smiled! I put her down. She started running with complete balance. She is entirely well. She plays and talks like a normal 4-year-old. We can never thank God enough." Mrs. L. D. Arizona.

"Is anything too hard for the Lord?" was a question asked centuries ago. As you answer that question, remember Jesus' statement, "According to your faith be it unto you" (Matthew 9:29).

Faith is not something you get or borrow from God. Faith is something you already have. The Bible tells us: "God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith" (Romans 12:3). But faith unused is like an automobile stowed away in a garage. Unless you drive it, the car is of no use to you.

And faith, to be effective, must be used. I coined the saying, "Turn your faith loose." I believe that's exactly what happens. When you believe God and expect him to do what he has promised, then you cut the bonds of your faith. You release its potential power so that it becomes active for your benefit as well as for others. Only believe, and life becomes abundant for you.

duced. They would clarify overlapping responsibilities of the Department of Conservation and Development and the Board of Water Commissioners with respect to water resources; do the same with regard to food inspection responsibilities of the State Board of Health and the Department of Agriculture; and standardize the methods of fixing salaries for state officials not under the Personnel Act.

The bills to change the method of legislative reapportionment were reported out of committee by a narrow vote, after amendment to pro-

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vide that the proposed reapportionment commission is to act only if the legislature fails to reapportion. They will reach the Senate floor Tuesday.

The 1949 law requiring investment of state funds in state banks at interest or in U. S. government obligations (which ever would yield greater interest) would be modified by SB 192 to authorize deposit in state banks at interest not exceeding 2%, even though more profitable returns could be secured elsewhere.

Criminal Laws

Despite intensive lobbying in their support, the anti-shoplifting bills batted only 500. HB 244, which would have permitted a merchant to detain a person reasonably suspected of shoplifting (without liability for a mistake) was killed in a House committee. HB 275, which would make it a misdemeanor willfully to conceal merchandise on one's person, squeezed by the same committee and passed by a more substantial margin on the floor.

Other types of thieves may find it more difficult to dispose of their loot if SB 165 is enacted. It requires junk dealers to keep records of their purchases, including the license number of any motor vehicle used to deliver the junk. Three other bills would broaden the prohibitions against sale, display, or distribution of obscene literature and similar materials.

Schools

The consolidation issue as it pertains to individual schools would be

raised in magnified form under HB 471. It would permit the State Board of Education to consolidate city school units with county units whenever necessary for more efficient and economical operation; the introducer claims \$½ million in savings would result from elimination of all but about 15 of the state's 74 city school units.

Wider use of school buildings for community purposes may result from a House bill that would require (rather than permit) school boards to make rules for such use. Other measures would exempt city as well as county school units from gasoline tax payments and authorize activity bus drivers to hold either a school bus driver's certificate or a chauffeur's license.

Miscellaneous

Marriage and divorce laws would both be tightened, under bills (a) to authorize the register of deeds to require birth certificates of mar-

riage license applicants appearing to be under 18 and (b) to deprive inferior courts of jurisdiction over divorce cases except where the defendant is personally served with process.

SB 184 would permit cotton growers to form producers associations and to vote assessments on themselves for promotion of cotton use. After a flurry of debate, the Senate voted to ask Congress to investigate the use of reconstituted tobacco and to require manufacturers using such tobacco to indicate it on their products.

If SB 190 is adopted, the course of study of state schools will include "instruction in Americanism, alcoholism, Government of the

State of North Carolina, Government of the United States and nationalism at the appropriate grade levels."

They have been at a great feast of languages and stolen the scraps.

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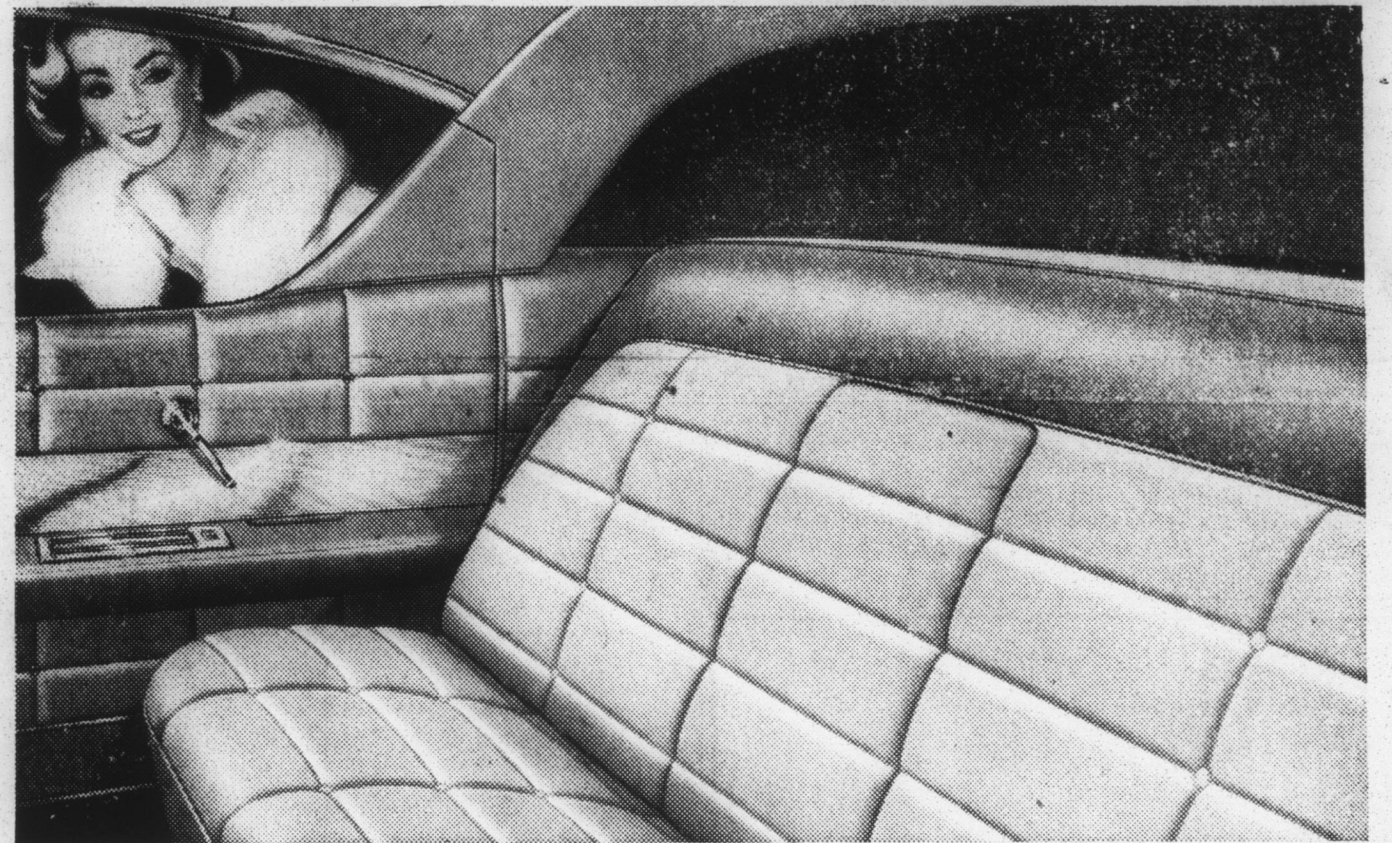


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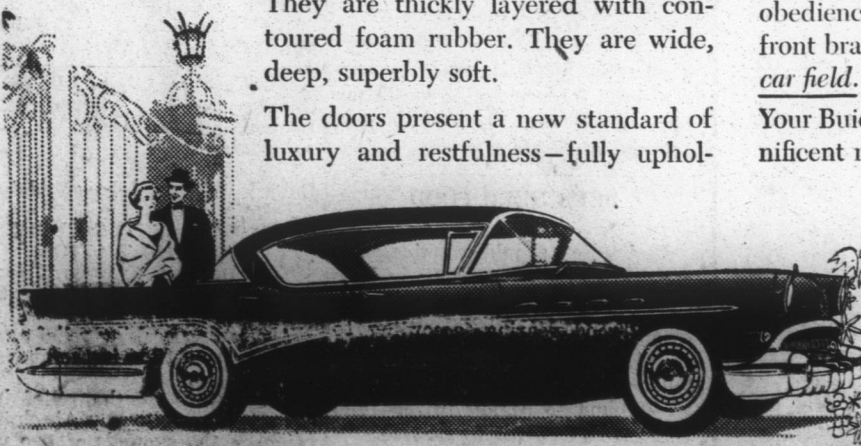
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