

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Note: This is one 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 1936. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.

The General Assembly continued to introduce bills at a fast pace. Interestingly, the increase of bills over the comparable period for last session is caused almost entirely by a heavier volume of public bills; local bills are coming in no faster than they did in 1935.

Election Laws

Unusual events during the past year (the votes, death of a candidate immediately before the primary) led to two new bills. HB 77 provides for run-off primaries in case of tie votes for legislative, county and township offices; HB 78 would permit election boards to reopen filing periods for an additional five days when the death of a candidate leaves only one candidate for the nomination, and there is sufficient time to re-print ballots; if there is not time, the deceased candidate's name remains on the ballot, and if he receives the highest vote, all candidates are rejected and the appropriate executive committee selects a nominee. A third elections bill (all sponsored by the State Board of Elections), would change the date for State and Congressional primaries from the last Saturday in May to the last Tuesday in June; a fourth makes numerous changes in the election laws, including the deletion of the requirement for alternating the relative positions of names on the ballot, and the substitution of an alphabetical arrangement. Conspicuous by its absence was a proposal to abolish the civilian absentee ballot, a proposal endorsed by both the State Board of Elections and the Governor.

State Salaries and Revenue

Three bills were introduced calling for salary increases not included in the Governor's budget. HB 68 would grant a 5% increase to all employees paid in whole or in part from the Highway Fund; HB 67 would grant a like salary increase to other State employees and school teachers. SB 34 would raise salaries of public school personnel as much as 10%, and would authorize the extra week's pay recommended by the Governor.

Two House bills would alter the present sales and use tax structure. Both HB 69 and HB 114 would eliminate virtually all exemptions from the tax, and the former would reduce the tax rate to 2%.

HB 130 is sure to cause some popping off by soft drink bottlers and sellers. This bill would impose a tax on bottled soft drinks of 1c per 12 oz. or fraction thereof, a tax of 76c per gallon on soft drink syrup, and a tax of 1c per 5c of cost on unbottled soft drinks. Milk sold in bottles, unfermented fruit juices, and syrup used in making drinks for sale in other states would not be taxed.

Motor Vehicles

Bills relating to motor vehicles, always a major item of legislative interest, began to come in. HB 65 would appropriate \$370,365 to add 25 members to the Highway Patrol; this money would come from an increase of \$2 in the registration fee of vehicles now taxed at \$11 or more (HB 66). Bills introduced Wednesday would restate the rules of evidence in regard to the ownership and agency of the operator of a motor vehicle involved in an accident, and would repeal the requirement that courts enter notations of convictions of motor vehicle offenses on drivers' licenses. HB 106 would require three, rather than two, convictions within 12 months of speeding between 55 and 75 mph before the Department of Motor Vehicles would be authorized to suspend a driver's license, and would require a warning letter from the Department after the second conviction. Bills embodying the legislative program of the Department of Motor Vehicles have not yet been introduced.

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Now she was a poverty-stricken nation; a country divided by civil war. What had wrought this great change? How could a nation once so powerful fall so low? There are many reasons for the great change that took place. The kings that followed David and Solomon were not godly men. They did not try to lead the people into what was good for them, but rather used their office for personal gain. Thus Israel fell from her love for God because her kings made her to sin. Because of this, political and moral decay set in. Israel not only lacked strong faith, but it seems, had no faith at all. The Israelites wandered from God and followed after the vices of the heathen nations surrounding them, despite the warning of God to have nothing to do with them. They forgot that God had said, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and the people whom He hath chosen for His inheritance." A period of decay and worldliness began. And notice the parallel between Israel at this time and certain so-called "Christian" nations of today. In the early days of Israel's life as a nation, their government had been a theocracy, that is, a government ruled by God. The Ten Commandments had been to them as a Bill of Rights, and a Declaration of Dependence on God. William Penn once said, "Men must be governed by God or ruled by tyrants." This was the situation in Israel at this time. Her king, Ahab, was one of the most wicked men ever to rule Israel, and his wife was more wicked than he. Because he was so evil, the Bible tells us that "Ahab" did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel that were before him." Ahab set up a new god for the people to worship: Baal. Baal was a god of materialism, a god of the lower nature, whose philosophy was that man should look after number one first, that he should satisfy his own desires and wishes before those of others. It is easy to understand what such a religion could do to a nation. The people worshipped this pagan god by over-indulgence, and lust, and threw aside all inhibitions and restraints. But the people had not completely forgotten God. They had simply made God over to their own specifications. They had mixed God and Baal together. But this did not work too well. The question began popping up in the minds of many, "Who is really the true God?" Perhaps the priests of Baal tried to suppress this question, but to no avail. Neither had God forgotten Israel. For at this time He raised up a prophet, Elijah, who reasoned with the people to decide one way or the other whose side they were on. "If the Lord be God, follow Him, but if Baal, then follow Him." The people could not understand that it is impossible to serve God and Mammon. Therefore God sent a great drought upon the land which lasted several months. The people prayed to Baal for rain, but none came. How could an idol bring rain? Thus the people became dissatisfied with Baal. Elijah now challenged

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Weekly Devotions Column

This week's column begins an original sermon by John Mitchener, young member of the Edenton Presbyterian Church. "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him" (1 Kings 18:21). Our Scripture has one of the most dramatic settings of any event in the Bible. Only a few years before, Israel, under David and Solomon, had been a world power. But at this time Israel had also worshipped God, and had remained true to Him. They had had great faith in God, and had obeyed Him as a chosen people. And as a result, God had blessed them greatly. Unfortunately for Israel, times had changed.

Taylor Theatre

Edenton, N. C.
Thursday and Friday, February 26-27—
RETURN ENGAGEMENT AT REGULAR ADMISSION
Lana Turner, Hope Lange, Lee Phillips, Russ Tamblyn, Terry Moore and Dian Varsi in "PEYTON PLACE"
CinemaScope, Color and Stereophonic Sound
Note: Due to length of picture one show each night. Open 6:30, shorts 7:15, Feature 8:00 P. M.
Saturday, February 28—
DOUBLE FEATURE
Rory Calhoun in "RIDE OUT FOR REVENGE"
—also—
John Agar in "FRONTIER GUN"
Sunday and Monday, March 1-2—
Richard Widmark and Tina Louise in "THE TRAP"
Technicolor
Tuesday, March 3—
Jeff Chandler and Lana Turner in "THE LADY TAKES A FLYER"
CinemaScope and Color
Wednesday and Thursday, March 4-5—
So few people saw this picture first run in December. It's an entertaining movie in Technicolor...
Cary Grant and Sophia Loren in "HOUSEBOAT"
Coming... March 6-7—
Walt Disney's "TONKA"

losophy was that man should look after number one first, that he should satisfy his own desires and wishes before those of others. It is easy to understand what such a religion could do to a nation. The people worshipped this pagan god by over-indulgence, and lust, and threw aside all inhibitions and restraints. But the people had not completely forgotten God. They had simply made God over to their own specifications. They had mixed God and Baal together. But this did not work too well. The question began popping up in the minds of many, "Who is really the true God?" Perhaps the priests of Baal tried to suppress this question, but to no avail. Neither had God forgotten Israel. For at this time He raised up a prophet, Elijah, who reasoned with the people to decide one way or the other whose side they were on. "If the Lord be God, follow Him, but if Baal, then follow Him." The people could not understand that it is impossible to serve God and Mammon. Therefore God sent a great drought upon the land which lasted several months. The people prayed to Baal for rain, but none came. How could an idol bring rain? Thus the people became dissatisfied with Baal. Elijah now challenged

them to rise out of their complacency and decide once for all: "If the Lord be God, follow Him; but if Baal, then follow him." (continued next week)

Mrs. Janie Boyce Dies After Lengthy Illness

Mrs. Janie Byrum Boyce, 57, died Sunday morning at 2:05 o'clock at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Larry Knox, after an illness of two years. She was a native of Chowan and a member of the Macedonia Baptist Church. Surviving are her husband, Charlie Baker Boyce; a son, Joseph Baker Boyce of Norfolk; five daughters, Mrs. Richard McClenny of South Norfolk, Mrs. Lloyd Evans of Hertford, Mrs. George Hollowell, Mrs. Wayland Evans and Mrs. Larry Knox of Edenton; a sister, Mrs. Susie Byrum of Portsmouth; a half brother, Elton Ward of Florida, 22 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the Macedonia Baptist Church. The pastor, the Rev. L. C. Chandler, officiated and burial was in Beaver Mill Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Ray Byrum, Wallace Riddick, Bonney Lee Hobbs, Bristoe Perry, Willie Morris and Weldon Hollowell.

All our knowledge is ourselves to know.

—Alexander Pope.

LISTEN EACH SUNDAY AT 8:45 A. M.

The Melody Five

EDENTON'S OWN SPIRITUAL GROUP

Over Radio Station WCDJ—Edenton

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Require unto thyself, and thou wilt blush to find how little is here. —Perrins.

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