

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 1958. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.

Perhaps the most significant event of the legislative week occurred Monday afternoon before the General Assembly held its first session — Governor Hodges announced that revenue estimates for the next biennium were increased \$16 million as a result of tabulation of April returns. This "new money" without new taxes meant that various departments and agencies would increase their pressures for an increase over Budget Bill appropriations; opinions differed as to whether it meant a lengthening or a shortening of the legislative session.

Agriculture
SB 331, introduced by Senator Rose, prohibits the use of maleic hydrazide (MH-30) on growing tobacco, and places various restrictions upon the sale and possession of the substance, which is used in sucker control. The bill labels the substance as an "economic poison" in that it impairs the smoking qualities, flavor and aroma of tobacco and seriously depresses the market. The bill has the support of the Tobacco Committees of both the NC Farm Bureau and the Grange, the Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation, and other tobacco producing and marketing groups. Other bills introduced during the week in-

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cluded HB 778 which would appropriate money for an additional Department of Agriculture veterinarian to perform diagnostic and other services in connection with diseased flocks and herds in Eastern NC; and SB 332 which would enable duly certified agencies of producers of cattle for slaughter to require buyers to collect marketing assessments in force pursuant to referendum. HB 632, relating to hog cholera control, and HB 64, regulating peeper seed, were reported favorably in the House.

Local Government
HB 506 and 508 which authorize cities to annex areas without holding elections passed by substantial majorities in the House Thursday. The House amended the bills to entitle property owners in the annexed areas who feel that the city has not followed through on planned services extension to sue to require the city to live up to its commitments. The House also passed HB 507, which revises procedures for annexation of an area when all real property owners in the area petition for annexation.

SB 161, providing for uniform assessment of property, and SB 162, requiring revaluation of taxable property every eight years on a staggered schedule so that approximately the same number of counties would revalue each year, passed the Senate Friday.

Health
HB 755 was introduced Tuesday to create a State Board of Sanitarian Examiners for the licensing of sanitarians. In order to be licensed, a sanitarian would have to pass an examination, be a graduate of a 4-year educational institution with a major in physical or biological science, and have had three years' experience in the field of environmental sanitation. The bill was proposed by the sanitation section of the NC Public Health Association and would accord the sanitarians professional status. Unlicensed persons performing sanitarian functions for health departments would do so under the technical supervision of licensed sanitarians, and could not represent themselves to be registered sanitarians.

Minimum Wage
Opponents of the minimum wage bill apparently accepted the inevitable, and the bill passed the Senate with a minimum of difficulty. Proponents were confident of victory, but they were not willing to run the risk involved in returning the bill to the House; accordingly, they did not seek to strike out any of the House amendments. The vote on third reading was 42-6.

Finance
Rep. Blue, Chairman of the House Finance Committee, introduced HB 768 to require withholding of State income taxes. The bill is essentially identical to a portion of the original Budget Revenue Bill. The new bill enables the committee and House to consider the withholding provision free of other matters in the Revenue Bill. Other new bills included HB 740 and 749, exempting from sales tax sales by Cherokee Indian Reservation merchants and sales of used textbooks; and HB 747, which would tax juke boxes an extra \$5 for the benefit of the NC Symphony Society.

State Government
The House shook up HB 260, the Highway Commission shake-up bill, by defeating it on second reading. Debate was lively and surprisingly brief. Immediately after only 32 members stood to vote for the bill. Rep. Kerr applied the legislative "clinch" and the bill was permanently dead.

HB 580, which would enlarge the powers of the State Auditor and make him more independent of other executive offices, was shelved by House Judiciary 1. The bill contributed to one lively session of the House when its sponsor, Rep. Everett, delivered a speech in which he sharply criticized Governor Hodges.

HB 57, the State lands management bill, passed the House Friday.

Roads and Highway Safety
Motor vehicle bills have found the legislative road rocky indeed this session. During the past week three more bills proposing changes in the motor vehicle laws were reported unfavorably by the committees studying them. HB 4, which would have restricted the right of automobile liability insurers to cancel or refuse to renew policies was killed by the House Committee on Insurance. HB 7, which would have exempted tractors and trailers

used to haul farm drain tile or ditching equipment from registration and title certificate requirements was ditched by the Roads and Highway Safety Committee. HB 686, which would have permitted confiscation of vehicles used in various theft-type crimes, was adjudged bad by House Judiciary 1. The drunkometer bill, SB 120, was in the coma in Senate Judiciary 2, and little hope was held for its recovery. Already buried were HB 312, the motor vehicle annual mechanical inspection bill; SB 119, which proposed to extend the power of officers to arrest without a warrant for violations of certain motor vehicle laws, and SB 153, which would provide State-paid defense attorneys for highway patrolmen sued in connection with official acts.

National Guard Police Powers
SB 287, originally provided that if National Guard units were ordered by the Governor into any county to assist local law enforcement officers in maintaining law and order, Guard members would have the same power to make arrests and execute criminal process as does the county sheriff. Monday night the House amended the bill to provide that members of Guard units called out by the Governor pursuant to his constitutional authority should have arrest powers reasonably necessary to accomplish the purposes for which they were called out. The amended bill was ratified Wednesday. Though opinions differed as to the effect of the amendment, there was considerable support for the position that the bill was now simply declaratory of existing law.

Motorboat Regulation
HB 733 regulates motorboat operation and equipment and imposes a registration-numbering system to permit ready identification of motorboats. The omnibus bill—comparable in scope to the motor vehicles law—would be administered by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

banquet itself was most successful and one of the big reasons was the talk given by the superintendent of schools, John A. Holmes, an interesting and a very fine gentleman. Also, had the opportunity of meeting Derwood Bray for the very first time, and enjoyed that meeting. It was definitely decided that WCDJ would work very closely with the band, in presenting them over the radio as often as possible. However, regular broadcasts will not start until spring. One more thing, while on the subject: my congratulations to all of the youngsters who were appointed and elected to various offices and positions and to the three who received their camp scholarships for this summer.

Hollywood, in keeping with the times, has been on a rock 'n roll kick and in the past year has come out with a slew of pictures concentrating on rock 'n roll music. One movie, "Go, Johnny, Go," has them all beat. Some of the best rock 'n roll you'll ever hear... and some of the top artists, are featured in this show. The big show on Broadway these days is a wild importation from France called "La Plume de ma Tante," and the title tune as recorded by Hugo and Luigi is one of the most tuneful platters to be released this year. "Come Softly To Me," fell off the number one spot for the first time in almost four months. However, it's still a hot record, and one of the most listenable around.

By the way, May has been designated as National Radio Month and at WCDJ we're making plans for something of a revised format which you'll be hearing beginning the 10th of June. Meantime, we hope you'll keep your dial set at 1260 and we'll keep you entertained in a tasteful, tuneful, but always, a friendly manner.

Check back with you in next week's Herald.

3. The newest of the standard traffic signs—the triangle—is yellow with black lettering. It means you should (a) yield right-of-way, (b) stop, (c) expect a railroad crossing ahead.

4. A round yellow sign ahead means just one thing—you're approaching a (a) dead end, (b) school crossing, (c) railroad crossing.

5. A diamond-shaped sign tells of (a) unusual conditions ahead, (b) a roadside park, (c) a hospital zone.

Answers
1. (b) Come to a full stop opposite any eight-sided sign, whether it's red with white lettering or yellow with black lettering. Both signs mean stop. And be sure the way's clear before proceeding.

2. (c) The signs state the law—for example, speed limits, parking restrictions and turning and passing regulations.

3. (a) This means you're required to slow down or stop for other cars at intersections. Even if the intersection isn't marked with a yield right-of-way sign,

it's smart to let the other car go ahead, the National Safety Council says. "Better to lose a right and save your life."

4. (c) According to the Council, you should always be ready to stop when approaching a railroad crossing.

5. (a) Diamond-shaped signs warn of any dangerous or unusual conditions ahead—curves, side roads, hills, intersections, lips, bumps or school zones. Use extra caution until you've passed the danger zone, the Council warns.

"Traffic signs, signals and devices, and pavement markings," it says, "are signs of life—your life lines. They protect you. Respect them."

Persistence
Lady Gold Novice (after tenth swipe of the ball) — "Thank goodness, it's gone at last." Caddie — "It isn't the ball that's gone, miss — it's your wrist watch."

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Frankly Speaking
By Frank Roberts
Prior to last Friday night's em-ceeding job at the Edenton Junior-Senior Band banquet, I'd never before tackled that particular type of em-cee work. Thus I was plenty nervous to begin with. However, as the night went on and all went so smoothly, it got so I really enjoyed every second of the event. The

Accident Facts
Driving on your vacation this year? If so, you'll see a lot of road signs. Just how well do you know them—the "signs of life" for you and your family? Take this test and find out.
1. An eight-sided sign—red and white lettering—means (a) no passing, (b) stop, (c) yield right-of-way.
2. Rectangular signs — white with black (or other color) lettering state the (a) road conditions, (b) altitude, (c) law.

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