

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 1959. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.

Those featured performers of every legislative show — the money bills — are being readied to move front and center. Introduction Monday night of capital improvements bills by Finance Committee chairmen to replace the original budget bills was the opening note of the fanfare for the grand finale. Immediately there was a rush of new bills, as members sought to bet their children on the stage before the final curtain. Introductions during the week totaled 145, the highest of any week of the session thus far.

Indications are that many bills will either die in committee or fail to be considered on the floor, or else this will be the longest session in history.

As the House continued to debate bills at extraordinary length, Speaker Hewlett cast about for extra meeting times, but found that committees were scheduled at every possible hour.

Appropriations

The substitute capital improvements bills provided for additional bonds amounting to about \$4½ million, and made numerous changes in individual appropriations. Among the major changes were increased or new appropriations of \$2 million to the State Hospital at Goldsboro for a hospital and administration building, \$4½ million for a Western Carolina Training School, \$624,000 to the State Art Society for an addition to the Museum of Art building, \$500,000 to the State Ports Authority to construct port facilities at Southport, \$430,000 to SPA for improvements in port facilities at Wilmington and

\$280,000 for the same purpose at Morehead City. The University at Chapel Hill lost \$480,000 for a new dormitory, and A. & T. College at Greensboro lost \$510,000, also for a dormitory.

The Joint Appropriations Subcommittee was scheduled to complete its work by disposing of state employee questions Friday afternoon. On Thursday the subcommittee completed its work on the Consolidated University budget by setting a figure which would give the University about two-third of the difference between its original requests and the amount provided in the original Budget Appropriations Bill. The subcommittee report will be presented to the full Appropriations Committee next Tuesday.

Earlier in the week the subcommittee rejected a report of a subgroup studying the welfare budget and recommended an increase of \$1.6 million, as compared to the \$2.1 million recommended by the study group and \$3.9 million requested by the Welfare Department. It was stated that the subcommittee's proposal would mean a reduction of 10% in aid-to-dependent children and disability grants, and 5% in old-age assistance grants.

Finance

A real hassle developed in the Senate Finance Committee on the question of including corporations within the proposed withholding tax provisions. The committee approved an amendment to include corporations, and then reversed itself the following day. The withholding provision was then approved by a vote of 14-8. The House Finance Committee already had rejected the corporation-inclusion amendment and had approved the withholding proposal. New tax bills included HB 910, which levies an annual tax of \$200 on each vehicle bringing coal or coke into North Carolina for delivery to a person not taxed as a dealer, and HB 949 which specifies that when a distributing warehouse and retail outlets are under the same ownership, delivery of goods to the warehouse in North Carolina for the retail outlets shall be taxed as a wholesale sale.

Schools

Two new bills could add fuel to the alleged controversy oc-



BELL BOTTOMS UP!—Town crier John Arthur Evans of Newcastle-under-Lyme, England, works up a good thirst competing with 19 fellow criers for the title of national champion in a test at Hastings, Sussex. So he downs a pint of ale from his bell. Probably improves the tone, too.

between the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education. The first of these, HB 925, sent forward by Rep. Davis of Lenoir, provides for the appointment of the State Textbook Commission by the Governor upon recommendation of the Board rather than of the Superintendent, as at present, and deletes the requirement that the chairman of the Textbook Commission be subject to the approval of the Superintendent. The second, HB 923, introduced by Rep. Satterfield, would make the Lieutenant Governor chairman of the State Board instead of permitting the Board to elect its own chairman. Other new bills in the school area would provide for the employment of guidance and counseling teachers in the public schools (HB 951), and would establish a 9-member commission to study the public school education of exceptionally talented children (HB 973). In a joint session Thursday the Assembly elected trustees of the Greater University and ratified the Governor's appointments to boards of trust of other state institutions of higher learning.

Advertising

HB 959 would regulate roadside advertising along the Interstate Highway System in North Carolina. The bill is keyed to the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1958 which offered monetary incentives for state regulation of billboards on the Interstate System. Enactment of the bill would mean as much as \$800,000 in additional federal funds for the North Carolina system. Rep. Kerr of Warren served early notice that, if the bill reaches the House floor, it will receive the same close scrutiny which he has devoted to other measures implementing federal-aid laws.

HB 725, which would ban ad-

vertisement of all alcoholic beverages in any advertising media in the state, was the subject of considerable interest in House Judiciary II Committee. Committee action was postponed until next Thursday.

Agriculture

SB 331, the controversial bill prohibiting use of MH-30 on growing tobacco, was reported favorably by the Senate Agriculture Committee Thursday. At the time of the report two of the bill's original sponsors, Senators Morgan of Harnett and Hancock announced that they were withdrawing their support and asked further study of the problem. Introductions this week included SB 359, designed to improve coordination of federal, state and local agencies and programs for the promotion of agriculture in North Carolina. The bill authorizes counties and municipalities to appropriate funds for agricultural development and research.

Firemen's Pension Fund

The House devoted two hours of lively debate Thursday to HB 690, establishing a firemen's pension fund to be supported in part by a state tax on fire and lightning insurance premiums. The bill, along with two companion measures, is designed to replace a 1957 act which was invalidated by the Supreme Court. After the bill passed second reading by a three-to-one margin, Rep. Sneed offered a floor amendment Friday to limit the state's contribution to proceeds of the insurance premiums tax; on a motion to table the amendment a tie vote developed (a real rarity in the House) and Speaker Hewlett then voted in favor of the amendment. As thus amended the bill passed third reading and was sent to the Senate.

Miscellaneous

In the not too distant future, Tar Heels may be able to enjoy sporting and cultural events from a "flip top" stadium. Identical bills were introduced to create a Stadium Authority with authority to build a stadium within one mile of the State Fair Grounds, and to issue revenue bonds to provide the necessary funds. The bills specify that the stadium roof may be either permanent or removable.

SB 367 was introduced this week to promote housing cooperatives. The present law allows a simplified type of corporation to be formed and operated by five or more veterans

for veterans' housing. The new bill would remove the restrictions as to veterans and specifies that apartments can be included in the cooperative housing projects.

Costs Of Food Vary With Age

Age is an important consideration in estimating family food costs.

Though it is often said that growing boys eat more than their fathers, and elderly people eat less than those who are younger, more definite information on food costs as related to age is needed for successful budgeting.

In general, food costs increase with age up to 20 years, then decrease, according to Mrs. Ruby P. Uzzle, consumer marketing specialist for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service.

Food economists used average countywide retail food prices for August 1958 to estimate that on a moderate cost plan, feeding a three-year-old boy would cost \$4.50 a week compared to \$11.50 for a 16-year-old boy and \$8.50 for a 75-year-old man. The estimates were based on home meals, not "eating out".

Cost of feeding children at any age under 12 years is the same for

boys or girls.

Over 12 years, boys and men need more food than girls and women of the same age, thus their food costs are higher. It costs about a third more to feed a 16-year-old boy, on the average, than to feed a girl of the same age. Next to the teenage boy, a man of 35 to 54 years averages highest in the cost of his food.

These figures prove that age is important when planning the family food budget.

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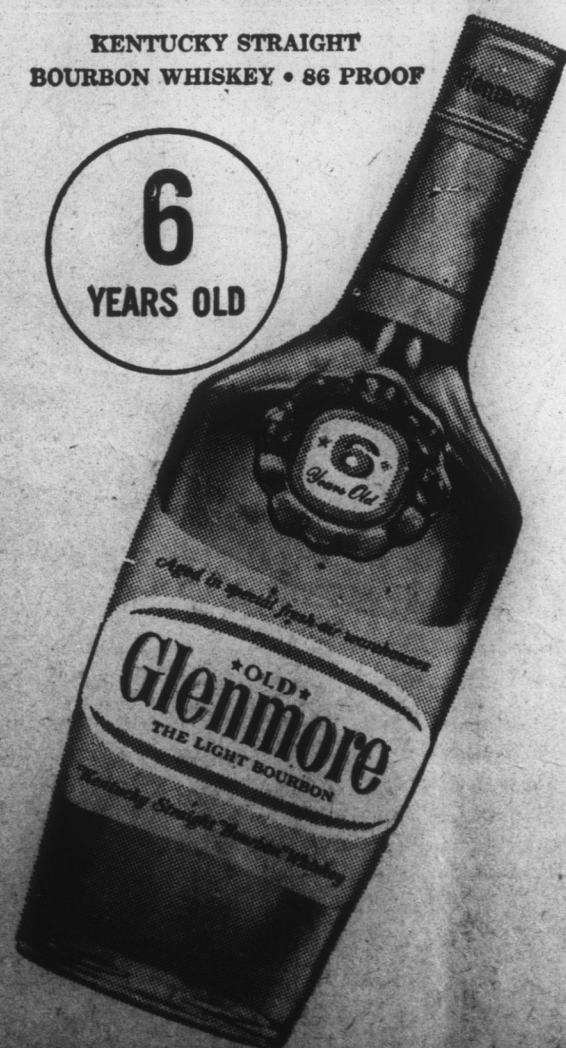
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