

Weekly Legislative Summary

Editor's 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 1965. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.

A tempered increase in the legislative pace paired with a cold northwest wind to send solons home this weekend with quickened pulses. The House put together its first two back-to-back 10-bill days in new introductions, signalling mild bullish tremors for heavier going ahead. Both houses enjoyed their maiden full-dress debates of the year on the "UNC at Charlotte" bill.

While immediate attention centered on these mid-week debates, the pall of overhanging issues which have not yet crystallized in bill form thickened. Prominent absentees included such measures as the public-private power settlement, the Courts Commission proposals, the auto inspection bill and the Uniform Commercial Code. In all of these areas new bills are anticipated soon, but for reasons tactical or otherwise have not yet been introduced.

Higher Education
Big news of the week was a lively floor tussle provoked by the "UNC at Charlotte" bill when it reached the floor of both chambers. On Tuesday and Wednesday the Senate glittered with TV

klieg lights as it witnessed long debates on the merits and a surprisingly strong effort to recommit the bill (SB 10) to Appropriations for further committee hearings on financial aspects of "university" Charlotte College. The motion to recommit was defeated by a vote of 27-21 and final passage was promptly achieved by voice vote with but a smattering of opposition. On Thursday the scene shifted to the lower chamber when the companion House bill (HB 35) was brought up for floor consideration. A day's debate did not suffice to exhaust House dialecticians, and at week's end the bill was put over to next Tuesday for a return to the fray.

Appropriations and Finance
Two new funds bills were launched this week. SF 37 (HB 106) would appropriate \$37,500 for the construction of a rehearsal building at Fort Raleigh, national historic site in Dare County to match a federal offering of like amount. HB 94, introduced by Rep. Collier of Iredell, would up the subsistence allowance for members of state boards and commissions to a maximum of \$20 from present levels of \$12 in-state and \$14 out-of-state. It appears that this may be a trial balloon for a later proposal to augment legislative subsistence allowances similarly.

On the tax side the week brought a lone new entrant, a bill to give an additional \$5,000 inheritance tax exemption to dependent offspring who are incapable of self-support and to their widowed mothers. Thus far this session no legislative paladin has been so bold as to introduce a tax increase proposal.

Roads and Motor Vehicles
The beginnings of a motor vehicles program began to take shape this week as several new introductions saw their debuts. These included proposals to increase penalties for temporary larceny of vehicles (HB 120); to exclude the transportation of perishable farm products from the motor vehicles law definition of "contract carrier vehicles" (HB 98); and to exclude vehicles leased to the United States on a non-profit basis from the definition of "for-hire vehicles" (HB 95).

Friday brought a flock of new bills affecting auto liability insurance laws. Reps. Bunn and Wood introduced three bills to raise the required coverage of liability policies for passenger vehicles, taxicabs and rental vehicles to \$10,000 - \$25,000 - \$5,000 (HB 125, HB 126 and HB 127). In the upper house Sen. Whitehurst unveiled three proposals of the Legislative Council—that an insurance agent's acceptance of an application for liability insurance under the assigned risk plan should immediately bind the ultimate carrier (SB 45); that provisional licenses (16 to 18 years old) who do not own their cars not be required to maintain proof of financial responsibility (in addition to family coverage) for license re-issuance solely because of license suspensions for certain lesser offenses (SB 46); and that revoked registrations and suspended licenses for failure to have financial responsibility not be reinstated until at least 30 days after surrender of a driver license or registration plate (SB 47). HB 122 introduced by Rep. Uzjell would require that an owner's liability policy furnish coverage for all persons in lawful possession of a vehicle.

On the road front, this week saw further progress for the Governor's proposals for Highway Commission reorganization and road bonds. The \$300 million road bonds bill passed the Senate on Friday without opposition (SB 15) and the SHC reshuffle antedated through the House on Thursday. Barring surprises, one of these measures might well emerge as one of the first major enactments of the session.

Other
Following close on the heels of the N. C. State fires, a bill to revise the arson laws in order to plainly cover burnings of all state-

owned buildings was introduced on Thursday, passed both houses and was ratified Friday (SB 41-Ch. 14). An often-considered proposal to abolish capital punishment (for murder, arson and burglary) was reintroduced this week in the House by Rep. Hill and others (HB 100).

SB 44, introduced by Sen. Coggins, would immunize from civic or criminal liability physicians, teachers, and welfare employees who report cases of child abuse to law enforcement or welfare authorities.

Among this week's enactments awaiting only formal ratification was the bill adopting the flag of John Carteret as Granville County's official banner (HB 91). The flag of Carteret, erstwhile Earl, long may it flutter!

Though the mills of God grind slowly,
Yet they grind exceeding small;
Though with patience stands He
Waiting with exactness grinds
He all.
—Von Logan.

Frankly Speaking

BY FRANK ROBERTS

First of all, my thanks go to the many folks who had kind comments concerning my article in last week's Grit. It was fun to write, enjoyable to get paid for . . . but the biggest thrill of all for me, was to see it actually in print, with nary a word changed from the original.

A piece of correspondence I will treasure came from a real nice guy named Conrad Payne. He works out of Norfolk and is in charge of the Tidewater Regional Blood Center for the Red Cross. He congratulated the Jaycees on the work they did and said that everyone in the center knew we would go beyond our quota of 85. He said he took a bet (just a small one) that we would exceed the 100 mark and he was pleased by the margin with which we did THAT. I've enjoyed my chairmanship of this project and will

do all I can to help the next man. His task is made a lot easier by the people he works with . . . and especially by those who come down and donate that all important pint of blood.

It was enjoyable judging that last Miss Perquimans Contest in Hertford. Best they had yet, from the point of view of exceptional talent.

Reports have been reaching me that the fire department sometimes has a rough time getting to a fire. Some pre-occupied drivers in cars ahead have exhibited neither the courtesy or common sense to pull off and let 'em have the right of way, which is legally theirs. Wouldn't it be ironic if it was their property that was on fire.

The Chowan Herald has the latest North Carolina Variety Vacation books. They're interesting and colorful and contain stories and pictures about many places in North Carolina that a lot of Tarheelians don't even know about.

Our local numismatist John

Taylor, made our family richer by \$12 the other day. He came over to the house and plowed through some old coins we had. Result was 13 cents worth netted us that \$12. This man is an authority on coins, and if you have any you think are valuable just give him a call. They don't come any nicer and he'll be glad to explain the values of your coins.

Audrea Rowell asked me if I'd be interested in a few old records. Since I collect the things (and they in turn, collect dust, my wife says) I said I would . . . figuring on a few more for my collection. I wound up with almost a thousand valuable old-timers. I was doing her a favor helping clean out her attic and it all proved mutually beneficial.

Thanks to Harry Venters for getting me a subscription to the 4-H magazine.

More details later . . . but if you've got some kind of a talent, keep in touch with us concerning the forth-coming American Legion Fair. Grand Prize will be a round-trip, all-expense-paid

Citizens In Chowan Buy Savings Bonds

Chowan County residents more than doubled the state percentage of Savings Bond purchases during January.

R. Graham White of Peoples Bank & Trust Company, Chowan County volunteer chairman, reports that during January sales were \$14,207 in Chowan, which is 19.1 per cent of the county's 1965 quota of \$74,340.

In the same month, sales for the state totaled \$4,730,924, a 3.7 per cent drop from January a year ago. Sales amounted to 8.9 per cent of this year's goal.

The 1965 annual dollar goal assigned to North Carolina is \$53,100,000, which is an increase of \$3,100,000 over last year's goal.

three-day vacation for two to New York City . . . plus . . . two tickets to a major Broadway play.

Jaycees Pay Visit To Baptist Church

On Sunday, February 28, the Edenton Jaycees visited the Edenton Baptist Church as a group. They were welcomed to the service by Rev. R. N. Carroll, pastor.

In the past years the Jaycees have periodically visited with the churches within Edenton and Chowan County. This is in line with the religious emphasis program carried on by the Jaycees each year.

ON HONOR ROLL

Irma Jean Goodwin, a freshman at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, made the honor roll for the first semester. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Goodwin of Edenton.

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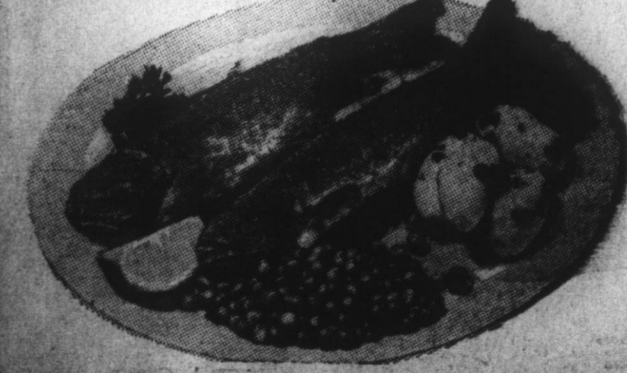
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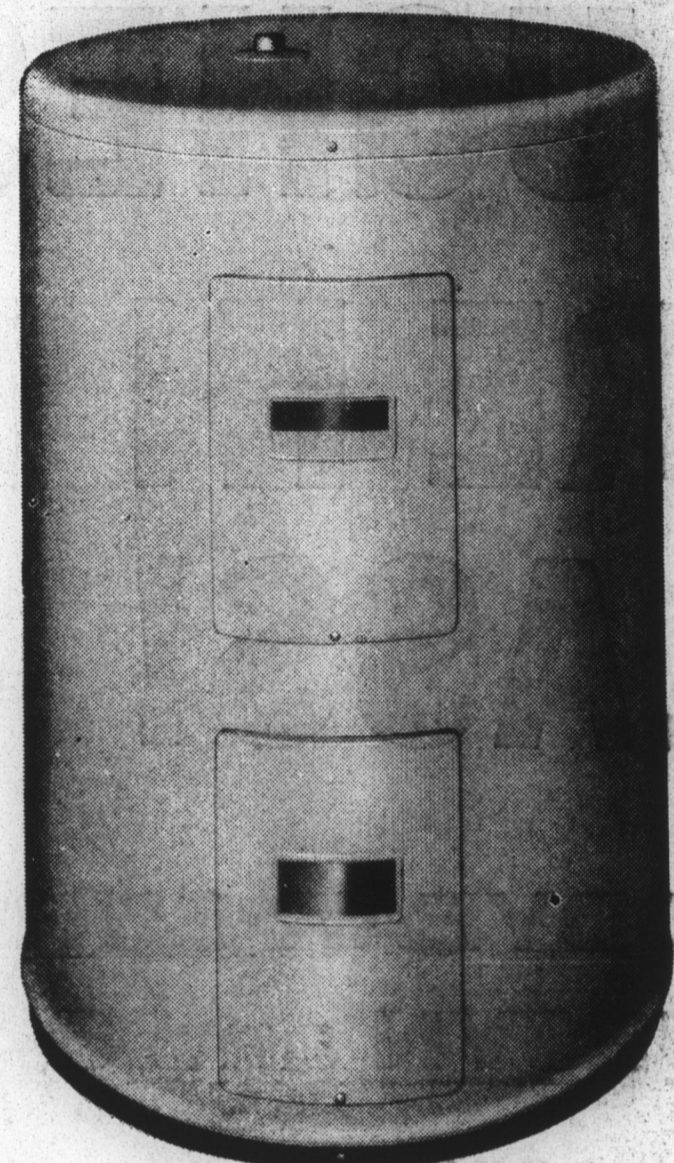
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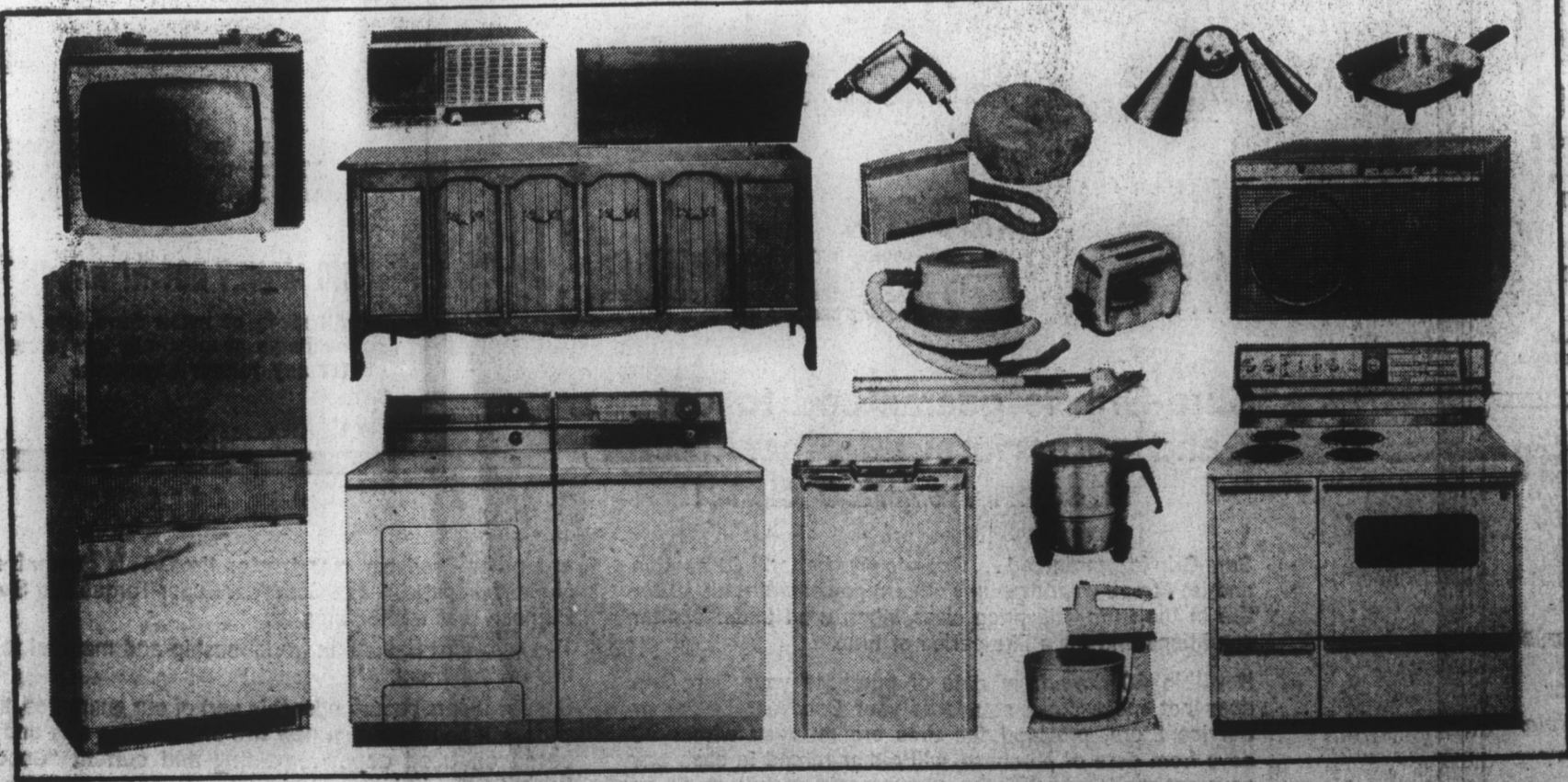
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