

# 1965 General Assembly Is Hailed As One Of Most Progressive

By GOV. DAN MOORE

It is a privilege and a pleasure to make this report to the people of North Carolina on the 1965 session of the General Assembly. This is also in the nature of a report.

on the first six months of administration, as much of our time and effort was in working in close cooperation with the members of the General Assembly.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the newspapers of the state for their cooperation and assistance during these six months. They have been crucial months. We have had a change of administration and a new legislative session confronted with many challenging and difficult issues.

It has been important for us to know what the people are thinking, and it has been important for the people to know the nature of the issues we have been dealing with. The newspapers, along with other communications media, have done a commendable job of keeping the people informed.

I think it has been a good six months for North Carolina. The 1965 legislature has acted wisely and courageously. It has moved effectively against the major problems facing our state today. It has smoothed the way for the full development of many of the opportunities available to us.

In my opinion, the 1965 General Assembly has been one of the most progressive and outstanding in the legislative history of North Carolina. It has appropriated the largest biennial budget—more than \$2.15 billion—in the history of the state. In terms of capital improvements, this General Assembly has approved \$149 million for construction projects. This is made up of \$39 million from the general fund, \$17.9 million from legislative bonds, \$46.7 million from self-liquidating projects, \$35 million from grants and gifts and \$10 million from special funds. Of this total amount, \$73.7 million, or 49 per cent, is for educational purposes.

Critics of the General Assembly have had their say about this session. Now, let's permit the record of this Assembly to speak for itself. The facts are most impressive.

The education of our children is the first responsibility of state government. I recommended a program that I felt would meet that responsibility. The General Assembly

has approved that program. What will be the results?

Class sizes in the first three grades will be reduced by three pupils. Fees will no longer be charged for textbooks in our elementary schools. Salaries for teaching personnel will rise 10 per cent during the biennium. Handicapped children will be benefited by the addition of 85 remedial teachers. The school lunchroom program will be expanded in order to eliminate the tragedy of hungry children in our classrooms.

The continued expansion of our Community College Program has been assured with substantial appropriations for capital construction, equipment and operations, including new programs for training nurses and dental technicians. Several new industrial education centers were authorized. We can expect better management and use of these important educational institutions.

Current operation appropriations for higher education in the biennium are \$109 million, an increase of \$29.9 million, or almost 38 per cent above estimated appropriation expenditures for the last biennium. Appropriations for new capital construction at our institutions of higher education total almost \$35 million. Available federal funds will increase this amount to nearly \$74 million. We are informed that this is all that can be wisely and economically spent during the next two years.

Other appropriations will provide substantial increases in library books, instructional equipment, new teachers, new counselors and salaries for instructional personnel. Almost \$400,000 is being provided for the purpose of upgrading and strengthening the new campus of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

North Carolina has become a research-minded state, and it recognizes the vital role of its university and college community in the research field. Evidence of this recognition is seen in the large appropriations for new research and research-related facilities on our campuses. The Research Triangle Foundation received \$750,000 to help provide the necessary land for the new Environmental Health Center at the Research Park.

Substantial funds have been made available for initiating

or expanding research in more than a dozen fields—half of them relating directly to agriculture and the others to such diverse subjects as computer programming, minerals, highway safety, speech and hearing defects, marine fisheries and zoology. Faculty research grants have also been made available, as well as funds for studying regional characteristics and potentials.

The health of our people has not been neglected. Four-year nursing schools have been established at the Greensboro and Charlotte campuses of the university, and a two-year nursing school has been established at Wilmington College. Steps have been taken to create a two-year medical school at East Carolina College.

Capital improvement appropriations of \$4.3 million have been made available for the improvement and expansion of our mental institutions. \$2.7 million has been provided for the establishment of Alcoholic Rehabilitation Centers. And \$738,000 has been appropriated for construction of a mental health unit in the prison system.

Funds have also been made available for the support of day-care centers for the mentally retarded, for the operation of local mental health centers, for support of a very promising program to detect signs of possible future mental retardation in infants, and for general support in other physical and mental health areas.

Traffic safety is a primary concern of mine, and I am especially pleased that the General Assembly has matched my concern and recommendations with positive action. A North Carolina Highway Safety Authority, with the governor as chairman, will direct the total program. Driver education is a prime deterrent in the rising toll of highway tragedies. And I am pleased that the legislature has appropriated more than \$4 million for support of the Driver Education Program in North Carolina.

To supplement this education program, we will now have a Highway Safety Research Institute located at the University of North Carolina. We will have a simple, effective Motor Vehicle Safety Inspection that will reduce

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### The Public Parade

**HISTORIC AND PROGRESSIVE**—During the past several weeks school matters have been discussed along The Public Parade as never before. Citizens have a new awareness of what is happening in this important field.

Now we are faced with what administrative system is best for the schools, the student, the taxpayers, and yes, the entire community.

We believe one administrative unit in Chowan County is the only answer. This would provide a more efficient and economical operation of our existing schools. It would strengthen the entire system.

During the 1964-65 term there were 3,294 students enrolled in our schools. The Edenton City administrative unit was responsible for 2,416 of these in three schools while the county's two schools had a total enrollment of 878. Chowan County taxpayers paid approximately \$212,000 on education—or more than one half the total tax levy for the county.

The combined budgets of the two administrative units for fiscal 1965-66 is in excess of \$233,000, an increase of about 10 per cent.

It will be financially impossible for Chowan County to provide a choice for rural Negro students by September, 1967. Yet, without a consolidation of the two administrative units, the great white fathers in Washington say it must be done.

In order to comply with the all-inclusive Civil Rights Act of 1964, students must be given a choice as to what school they want to attend. Heretofore this was simple. They could go to Chowan High School or D. F. Walker High School in Edenton. This will not be the case two years hence.

Chowan County has been given two years to solve the problem of transporting students from one administrative unit to another for schooling.

Consolidation of the two administrative units here would be quite simple since the money for operation of both units comes from the county tax levy. If Edenton had a special school tax that would complicate matters. And if the consolidation is not realized a special levy for schools in Edenton might be much closer to reality than we care to discuss.

If the county has to build another high school, or substantially add to the existing one, every taxpayer in the county will feel the pinch. And then we would be taking students from an accredited school and placing them into one which is not accredited.

Therefore, this is not just a matter of dollars and cents. It is also a means for providing equal educational opportunities for all the children of Chowan County.

Edenton and Chowan County is very historic. We

had very little to do with that. Our mayor and chamber of commerce likes to spread the word that we are also among the most progressive communities in the state. This is an area in which we can now prove ourselves.

**NURSE NEEDED**—“Does anybody know where we can find a registered nurse for the hospital to do the 11 P. M. to 7 A. M., tour of duty?”

That is a question W. P. (Spec) Jones is asking in his sleep. The hospital is in dire need of a nurse for this shift and the administrator has called on the entire community to join in the search.

“This is a real serious problem at the hospital and we sincerely solicit everyone's help,” the administrator said.

Nurses are a vital part of the operation of a hospital. Edenton and Chowan County has a good hospital and through the years has had good nurses. Right now they are caught short.

If nurses also didn't make good homemakers we could solve the problem by letting them have the best one ever to do a uniform. But that's another story.

The hospital needs your help. If you know of a prospect contact the administrator or Mrs. Helen Robinson, director of nurses.

**TICKET TAPE POVERTY**—According to an item in The Dallas Morning News, Rep. William Pitts Ryan, D., N. Y., is getting worried about the poverty war's Job Corps.

Ryan has suggested that the two applicants who have been accepted “deserve a

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**LION TAMERS**—The change in command of Edenton Lions Club this week brought smiles to the faces of the old and the new. Here Joe Thorud, right, outgoing president, poses with Dr. Richard Hardin, newly installed president.

### Dr. Hardin Is Installed To Head Lions Club

Dr. Richard Hardin has been installed as president of Edenton Lions Club. He succeeds Joe Thorud who has served for the past year.

Dr. Hardin heads a list of new officers who took office Monday night.

Dr. William H. Wynn of Powellsville, district governor, attended the regular club meeting at Edenton Restaurant and installed the new officers.

In addition to Dr. Hardin, the new officers include:

Daniel Reaves, first vice president; George Lewis, second vice president; Leo Katkavec, third vice president; and W. J. Taylor, secretary-treasurer.

Also, Rudolph Dale, lion tamer; Burley Niblett, tail twister; R. W. Leary and Jim Partin, directors for two years and J. C. Leary, chorister.

### Local Residents Are Given New Rate Reduction

A reduction in residential electric rates here, which could amount to an annual savings of nearly \$14,000, is announced by the Board of Public Works. The new rate is effective July 1.

Chairman Jesse L. Harrell points out this is the third reduction of residential electric rates in 13 months.

The new rate was made possible by a reduction in the purchase price of wholesale power from Virginia Electric & Power Co.

At the same time the local board announced a new combination rate for those with electric hot water heaters or electric heat in their home. Under this plan those who have time controlled hot water heater meters may at their own option qualify for the combination rate.

Residents who have electric hot water heaters that are not time controlled should notify the Municipal Building staff so they may be billed on the new combination rate.

Also, in the future, the board will not approve the

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### July 4 Holiday Is Set Monday

Edenton will virtually become a “ghost town” Monday as a general July 4 holiday will be observed.

The Merchants Committee of Edenton Chamber of Commerce has recommended that stores through the town close Monday, since the holiday falls on Sunday. Indications are that the recommendation will be carried out by most businesses.

W. B. Gardner, town administrator, said the Municipal Building will be closed as well as all town departments. He advised residents that no garbage collection will be made Monday.

The Chowan County court house will be closed as well as all county departments.

The post office will be closed. So will Peoples Bank & Trust Company's main office and Consumer Credit Branch.

William A. Hollar, manager, announced the Employment office will be closed Monday. All claimants scheduled to report on that date have been rescheduled to report July 12.

The local drivers license office will be closed, according to J. E. White, examiner.

No special activity is scheduled in this area for the holiday.

If the weather continues to be hot and humid, most employees who enjoy the comforts of air conditioning at work will be pleased to see Tuesday roll around.



**130TH ANNIVERSARY**—Some of the estimated 1,000 people who attended the 130th Anniversary at Rocky Hook Baptist Church on Sunday are shown entering the sanctuary as two of the principals of the day pose for the photographer. At right is Rev. Thurman W. Allred, pastor of the historic church, with Rev. Bomar L. Raines of Kings Mountain, a former pastor. Mr. Raines delivered the Sunday sermon at the all-day combination anniversary homecoming.

### County Board In Favor Of Single School Unit

The Chowan County Board of Education, hastening to resolve the existing school crisis, has gone on record as favoring one administrative unit for the entire county.

This is one of the provisions of a revised plan for compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

At a special meeting Monday night, the four board members attending unani-

### Fire Station, Library Bid Opening Scheduled

Sealed bids will be opened here July 15 for construction and equipping the new fire station and Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library.

Bids for the fire station will be opened at 2:30 P. M., with the opening of bids on the new library building set for 3:30 P. M.

The fire station bids will be received by Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., while Thomas Shepard, chairman of the library trustees, will take the bids for that group.

Carr, Harrison, Pruden & DePasquale, associated architects, of Durham, are architects for both proposed structures.

The fire station is to be erected on North Broad Street, next to the National Guard Armory. The library will be built on Water Street across from Colonial Furniture Co.

The notice to bidders, advertised this week, states separate proposals will be

received for general, plumbing, heating and air conditioning, and electrical contracts on each building.

Construction of the fire department and library will be of brick and steel roof framing. Both are of colonial design.

The fire department structure will contain approximately 7,500 square feet. It will be supported by treated pile foundations. Exterior walls will be brick with concrete masonry unit back-up. Interior walls will be generally exposed concrete, vinyl asbestos and ceramic tile floors and plastic ceilings.

Library work consists of constructing a building with an area of approximately 3,500 square feet. Type of construction will be basically the same as for the fire station, with the exception of the piled foundation.

It is anticipated that construction on the two buildings will get under way around August 1.

mously approved the revised plan which is almost assured of being accepted by federal authorities.

With the acceptance of this plan and the continuation of an agreement of 33 years standing with the Edenton City Board of Education, all Negro high school students in the county can be transported to D. F. Walker High School for the next two years.

Following a conference in Washington last Thursday and earlier action by Supt. Hiram Mayo of the city schools, all the Negro students—some 98 in all—who chose to attend the local Negro high school, can do so.

If one administrative unit is not realized by September, 1967, the county board must move to establish a senior high school at White Oak School.

Prior to the appointment in Washington, Supt. Mayo requested and received tentative approval from federal authorities to allow 68 Negro students who had already begun their high school education in Edenton to continue. However, this did not apply to 31 rising ninth graders who had requested transfer to D. F. Walker High School.

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