General Assembly Lauded

Continued from Page 1)

the number of mechanically dangerous vehicles on our highways. And we will, in the next two years, place 100 additional highway patrolmen on the highways to enforce our traffic laws. Outside rear view mirrors will be required on all new cars.

Realizing that North Carolina must have a modern highway system to meet its needs, the General Assembly has authorized a referendum on the issuance of \$300 million in highway bonds to be voted on by the people in the general election next November. If approved, half of the money will be spent on the primary system, \$75 million will go to secondary roads, and \$75 million will be used on highways within municipalities. We will also reorganize the highway commission for greater efficiency and better

Because of the work of this legislature, implementation of court reforms will begin in 1966. By 1971, all courts below the Superior Court level will be replaced by a system of uniform district courts charging uniform costs and sees. The General Assembly also approved a proposed constitutional amendment to authorize an intermediate court of appeals. The people will also vote on this proposal in November.

A significant step by the General Assembly was the enactment of legislation spelling out details of the so-called "Power Compromise." This agreement between private power companies and our Rural Electric Cooperatives establishes territorial rights in municipally-annexed areas. This is a tremendously important step forward. According to the Electrical World, national trade magazine, North Carolina "has led the way in bringing about a working relationship between investor-owned utilities and rural electric cooperatives-already other states are eyeing the pat-tern or agreement and legislation adopted by North Ca-

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strengthen our business community and make our state more attractive to prospective industrial investors.

The General Assembly has been generous in dealing with local governmental units. More than \$1.4 million has been appropriation for public libraries. Public health departments will receive \$4.2 million; mental health units, \$2.1 million; county welfare departments, \$31.5 million.

To meet a very serious problem of over-crowding in our Juvenile Correctional System, funds have been appropriated for the construction of an additional major facility Substantial funds were also made available to facilitate expansion of the Probation System.

To promote economic development, action has been taken to establish regional offices across the state to work with local officials and development groups in creating new and improved industrial potentials. A number of relatively modest appropriations will benefit our travel and recreation industry. These funds will be used for site development, construction and improvements to museums. lakes, historic sites, festivals and parks.

In addition to the various agricultural research programs mentioned earlier, the General Assembly has looked to the needs of our farm people with appropriations that will substantially improve the operation of the Department of Agriculture, especially in the Meat and Poultry Inspection Program. The Egg Marketing Inspection Service, formerly supported by an inspection fee, will now be supported by the state.

The expansion of our port facilities at Morehead City and Wilmington will continue through the appropriation of almost \$4.5 million for capital improvements.

A Governor's Coordinating Council on Aging was established by the General Assembly. This gives legal status to a vitally important agency and will enable us to meet more efficiently the needs of our increasing number of

In the general area of state government, the legislature and the Governor's Office have worked together to insure economic, efficient service to the people of North Carolina We have established a State Planning Task Force to coordinate joint state-federal projects. We are strengthening our Personnel Department by combining it with the Merit System Council. A 10 per cent pay increase for state employees will enable us to attract and keep competent, experienced personnel in state government.

I am pleased that the General Assembly has given overwhelming approval for my recommendation that a special commission be appointed to study the controversy arising over the Speaker Ban Law. Lieut. Gov. Robert Scott, Speaker of the House Patrick Taylor and I were authorized to appoint the members of this commission. It will hold public hearings so that everyone can be heard before a fair and impartial group, in a calm and judicial

The findings of this commission will carry weight with the General Assembly, with the higher education com-munity and with the people of North Carolina. I am confident that this study commission offers the surest and most direct solution to a most complex problem.

These, of course, are not all the accomplishments of the 1965 General Assembly. There are many more that time will not permit me to review now. I do feel, however, that North Carolinians have reason to be proud of the progress that has been made in this session. Another impressive chapter has been added to the North Carolina tradition of good government.

I want to assure all of you that this tradition will be continued through the remainder of my administration. We will move ahead with all our programs as rapidly as

We are building a great state. We are moving toward the better and more abundant life that can be ours. And we will reach that goal sooner than we think if we continue to work together. I pledge my total energy to the achievement of that end. And I am counting on the support of all North Carolinians.



NEW TRUCK IN ACTION-Edenton's Electric and Water Department has put into operation a new aerial bucket truck. This piece of equipment will allow the department to make repairs in mid-span as well as trim trees rather than cut them down. Supt. R. N. Hines predicts the truck will reduce costs in the department as well as provide more safety for emplayes.

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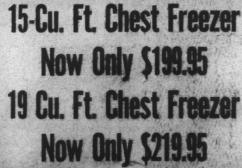


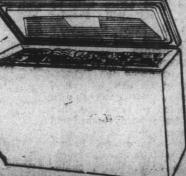
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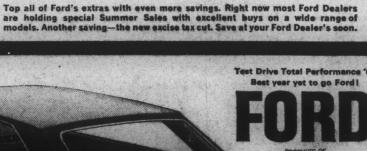
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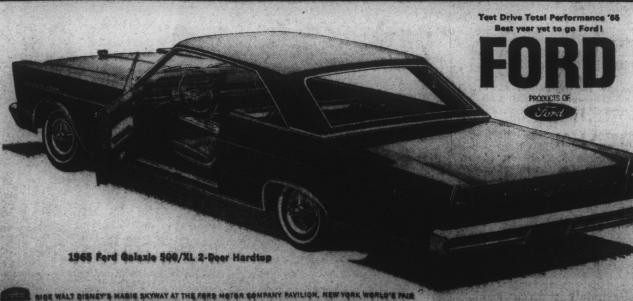
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