

From The Gallery: Adjournment Fever Raging Through Assembly

By Mildred Huskins
RALEIGH — Tempers are getting short and hours are getting long as the General Assembly enters its final week. These aspects of the adjournment fever range all the way from shouting matches in the super-sub to prolonged debate and marathon sessions on the floor.

In an attempt to pour oil on the waters or, more precisely, to cool tempers with ice cream, the governor staged his lawn party Tuesday afternoon at the mansion. Tables were set up for dishing out ice cream and lemonade and homemade cookies were offered at points about the south lawn. Long lines had formed before the lieutenant governor arrived but he was greeted by his excellency and ushered right up to the table. Now, Larry Eagle, the affable, rotund sergeant at arms of the house, had just reached the serving area when the two leaders came up to be served.

"Which kind would you like?" the governor said to the lieutenant governor. At the same time this pleasant conversation was in progress for the benefit of the photographers, Eagle was asked the same question by another attendant ready to serve him.

"Oh, No," said Eagle. "I want to wait and see which one the governor gives the lieutenant governor before I choose. I want to be sure it is all right."

Of course, this got a big laugh all around and the governor and the man who may be his Democratic primary opponent next May posed again with big licks on their ice cream cone.

Monday was the 99th legislative day and the

house calendar was extremely lengthy. It seemed that every bill which came before the members created considerable debate. Senator Charles Vickery of Orange had a bill which had come out of the insurance committee which would require the insurer to reveal the amount of coverage a person had if requested by the attorney before a suit was filed. This one was being handled in the house by Rep. Parks Helms of Mecklenburg. He had answered a number of questions and the lawyers were unusually quiet.

Then Rep. John Gamble of Lincoln asked to speak on the bill. "This is a lawyers' bill if I have ever seen one. It even smacks of the story I heard about a bunch of thieves who provided very rare theater tickets to an affluent family outside New York and when the family went to the musical and returned their house had been cleaned out. I hope you will think seriously about this bill," the doctor concluded.

"It might also be a doctor's bill," said Rep. Sam Bundy of Pitt, who wanted to add a word or two. "I am familiar with the times when there was no student insurance in the schools but now when a youngster gets a scratch on the school grounds he goes to the doctor and the first question the physician asks is 'do you have insurance?' I remember when we'd tell the kid to go home and put a warm rag on it," the gentleman said and firmly stated he would vote against the bill.

But the end was not even in sight on this one. Rep. Dan Lilley, an insurance man, asked Rep. Helms a question about revealing the

amount of the insurance coverage before the suit is filed and afterwards, to which the gentleman from Mecklenburg quipped: "What's the difference?"

"Well there must be some or we wouldn't have this bill," Rep. Lilley said and asked his question again. To answer the inquiry Rep. Helms explained in clothed legal terms and the gentleman from Lenoir was not satisfied. "Mr. Speaker, tell the gentleman I don't know anything about law."

So, Mr. Helms called the question and the count was 28 to 84 against the lawyers.

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"Mr. Speaker and ladies and gentlemen of the house," he began. "I have just heard once again that this is an administration resolution. I have never heard it so often as we have heard it this session," he continued. "Now we are asking the administration to rewrite the statutes. Pretty soon we are going to have to ask the administration if we can come down here and vote on their bills," the Oxford lawyer concluded.

He got it off his chest and spoke the mind of many of his colleagues but they passed the resolution anyway.

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be deleted.

Rep. Holmes, in his mild manner, explained further about plans for the school and concluded: "Now, about the zoo. I'm too young to know about that."

Later Rep. Parks Helms called for a special tribute to the committee chairman for his long and hard work on the budget. "This man, while preparing a \$10-billion budget, arranged to get me a cold beer."

The Mecklenburg lawmaker was referring to an amendment Rep. Holmes tagged onto an Orange County bill which would make it legal to sell cold beer in Chatnam County where, heretofore, only beer at room temperature could be sold.

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There was a hefty debate underway on Senator Ann Bagnal's sex education bill when it came time for the speaker to make a ruling of some sort. About that time the state helicopter took off from atop the administration building next door to the state house and passed over at low altitude. The speaker observed: "The governor is keeping a close watch over us."

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From time to time the

buttons on the members' desks fail to record a vote accurately. Rep. Eugene White of Caldwell arose to complain: "I have a red button here and I am going to want to vote yes pretty soon, Mr. Speaker."

"The clerk says she will take care of the button and you can take care of the vote," the speaker said.

Speaker Carl Stewart had warned members of the house the calendar was long for Friday and he would expect it to be finished before adjournment for the day. It was getting along about 3 P.M. and members were beginning to get weary and were pressuring their colleagues to cut down on debate.

Rep. Jo Graham Foster of Mecklenburg had given a brief explanation of her bill having to do with teacher retirement system and offered to answer any questions. Rep. Ted Kaplan of Forsyth arose and asked the lady to yield for a question.

"I yield, Rep. Kaplan. I have a 30 minute explanation on his bill if you want to hear it," she said and the gentleman from Forsyth sank into his seat. He did, however, object to the third reading and the bill

will be up again on third reading Monday night.

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The fellows will have their little jokes. Soon after noon Friday members began leaving the floor from time to time to visit the snack bar. Rep. Billy Clark of Cumberland had just returned to his seat and had relaxed into a period of resting his eyes. He leaned back against the books on

the desk behind him and was comfortable for a snooze. Just across the aisle, Rep. Bill McMillan of Iredell just happened to have a camera and snapped a picture of the sleeping lawmaker. This should be a handsome reminder for constituents next year on how hard the legislator works. The freshman lawmaker is to be married this month and needs his rest.

Sheila Jean Warren of Hiddenite was one of the bunch of house pages serving during the past week. She was nominated by Rep. Jay Huskins of Iredell. Mrs. C. B. Winberry and her sister, Miss Sarah Reece, were visiting in the house and senate galleries Wednesday. They were being escorted by her son, Charles who is an aide to the governor.

Activity Day Observance Held

By Gladys B. White
 Home Economics Extension Agent

Approximately 250 people attended the Northeastern District EFNEP Activity Day held on Saturday, June 2, at John A. Holmes High School. Fifty-six EFNEP youth participated in foods and foods related demonstrations at the first "district day" event. Thirty-three youth exhibited their favorite food in the "Favorite Food Show." There were 41 entries in the poster contest.

The Northeastern District EFNEP Activity Day is a foods and nutrition education program for youth which gives opportunity for personal development, improved

diet, and nutrition of total family, leader development, and parent participation.

Mr. Alton Elmore, Chowan County Commissioner, welcomed the group and presented the awards. Johnnie Bass, program aide from Chowan County, presided at the awards program.


Greetings were from Miss Kathleen Nelson, Home Economics Program Leader, North Carolina State University; and Dalton Proctor, Associate State 4-H Leader, North Carolina State University.

Winners from Chowan County were: Joe Harris, Fruit and Vegetable Use Demonstration; Carolyn Cofield, Senior Table Setting; Amy Copeland, Food

Safety; Phelicia Rascoe, Food Preservation. Phelicia Rascoe was also winner in the poster contest in the "nutritious snacks" division. Percy Rountree won a red ribbon for his breads and cereal demonstration.

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