

From The Gallery By Mildred A. Huskins: When Men Are Boys

Continued From Page 5-A considering it until the 1980 short session. So Rep. Aaron Plyler of Monroe had some misgivings about a bill which a member had explained and said the senate would agree to hold the measure in committee until the short session "I won't oppose the bill. I trust the senate will hold it," the gentleman said.

"I would admonish the gentleman to be careful where he places his trust," the speaker said.

To further illustrate some of the animosity abiding between the two houses, more and more the house conferees were returning the report "this is the best we can get from the senate." Now conferees are appointed by the house speaker and the lieutenant governor when the two houses fail to agree on a bill. It is expected that a compromise can be reached. But compromises were hard to come by, it seemed. Some of the members simply gave up. Take Rep. Gus Economos of Mecklenburg, who had been worrying around several weeks with a bill having to do with child custody judicial review and a committee substitute number two was back before the house. The lawmaker arose and addressed his colleagues: "I'm not going to explain the amendment. It ain't no good. Mr. Speaker, I move that the amendment and the bill be postponed indefinitely," he concluded with a sigh.

Rep. Douglas Clark of Duplin has been very vocal this session in spite of the fact he was a first-termer. He had a wildlife bill before his colleagues on the day the session was originally set to adjourn and he was pleading for passage and not only that but with his house members to plead with their senators to get the bill handled and ratified. "I plead with you to urge your senators to pass this bill. If it isn't passed you will all

have to answer to the voters," he warned.

"I believe the gentleman has just announced for reelection," the speaker said.

Practically every bill which went to committee returned to the house as a committee substitute and sometimes there were several committee substitutes as the measure went from one committee to another and back again. Rep. James E. Ezzell, Jr., of Nash, arose to explain a senate committee substitute for a house committee substitute for a house bill and said, "As you can see, Mr. Speaker, this has been worked out, worked on and worked over..."

From day-to-day during the week there were recesses and "at ease" intervals during house sessions as they waited for bill and resolutions to come over from the senate. During those times the speaker would make announcements and take care of unfinished business. At one such point he took pains to name a "comprehensive" committee to make plans for the basketball classic to be played next June between the N. C. House and the S. C. House teams. The victory of the House team over South Carolina was about the only real ego-boosting the members had. This committee is to formulate plans for entertaining the gentlemen from South Carolina and we would report to you that both of the Iredell representatives, Jay Huskins and Bill McMillan, will be serving on the committee.

Members of the press corps were dragging a bit before the big brass doors of the two chambers were finally closed but they never failed to have a sarcastic word to two for members of the General Assembly. However, they were begging for recognition when they erected a real scarecrow just outside the press room during the final rush. The monster had a big yellow box with eyes and ears and designated "the insurance monster" and a bedraggled telephone hung from one arm constructed of a pasteboard strip. The old used note pad was there and a necktie in twisted array. All of the tools of the "trade" had found their way to the skeleton as it begged for sympathy. Someone suggested that a legislator be placed alongside the figure...on a stretcher.

It was getting along in the afternoon Friday when it became apparent there would be no more bills withdrawn from the Rules

Committee and placed on the calendar for immediate consideration. The speaker announced: "Don't make a motion to withdraw a bill from the Rules Committee without consulting the chair and don't contact the Rules chairman. I've just sent him out of the county." The chairman of Rules was Rep. Liston Ramsey for Madison whose committee had been acting as calendar committee for a few days and was harassed to death.

The Back Row Boys, as the Republicans in the house are apt to refer to themselves, wanted to have some fun so Rep. Howard Coble of Guilford gained recognition and said the Republican Renegades had a little presentation to make and he wanted to yield to the Baron of the Blue Ridge Rep. S. B. Lacey of Avery, who began by saying he had been very quiet during the session. "It is proper for an S.B. to keep quiet, I guess. I content I am the only SB in this house and I will now make the presentation." With that he presented Rep. Chris

Barker of Craven, a framed picture of a turtle "with his head out." Barker introduced the bill which made the turtle the state reptile.

The fun continued a little later during a lull in proceedings when the gentleman from Avery again arose. This time he told his colleagues that those members on the back row had been wondering what a sign on the voting machine button of Rep. Van Phillips meant and they had determined that it deserved some action. Therefore, he said, he wanted to yield to Rep. Louise Brennan of Mecklenburg to make a presentation. The lady then proceeded to place a bright yellow lei around the neck of the blushing young freshman from Mitchell. There just happened to be a photographer standing by who snapped the picture of the cozy hug and kiss the lady accompanied the gift with. This little antic brought on considerable laughter and the speaker joined in with. "It was never

like that in Spruce Pine." What did the sign say? We never found out but it had something to do with lei(ed).

Rep. Dave Diamont of Surry was debating the sex education bill when he felt the need for some legal advice; so he asked Rep. George Miller of Durham if he would yield for a question.

"Rep. Miller," he began, "I want some legal advice and, since you are one of the better lawyers on the floor, I wonder if..."

At that point the speaker interrupted. "Well, we won't put that to a vote of the house," he said. "I wonder if boards of education do not already have the authority to pass on such programs as this? Can't they already control this?"

Rep. Miller said he thought they could since they have the power to hire and fire superintendents.

The debate rambled on for another 30 minutes and then the house put the senate-passed bill to rest and

moved on to other things, one of them being beach erosion.

The super-subcommittee had included a \$7.8-million item in the budget to help control beach erosion. It had been a controversial item in the committee and remained a controversial item on the floor.

When the bill was reached during the waning hours of the session, Rep. Al Adams of Wake sent up an amendment restricting the use of the funds to beaches where public access was provided.

This perked the interest of several eastern legislators, some of whom were seeking recognition when the speaker put the question on the amendment.

"The 'ayes' have it," he announced before anybody could call for a division.

"Mr. Speaker, that was pretty fast," observed Rep. Eugene Merritt of New Hanover. "I wanted to speak against that amendment."

"I knew that," the speaker said. "Without objection, the bill will be read a third time."



MOVE COMPLETED — Edenton United Methodist Church is now located on Virginia Road. The congregation recently moved from the North Broad Street facility into the new Educational Building adjacent to Chowan Hospital. Shown with Rev. Richard R. Blankenhorn, minister, are John Guard, left, chairman of the Administrative Board, and L. F. Amburn, Jr., chairman of the Building Committee. (Photo by Paul Amburn).

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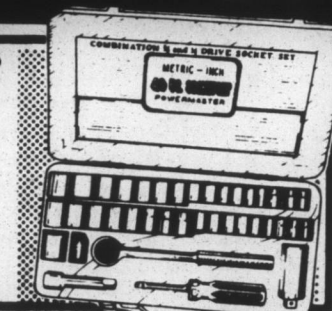
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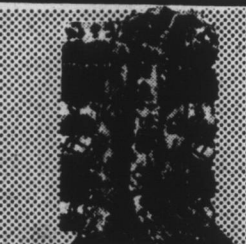
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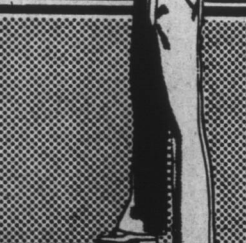
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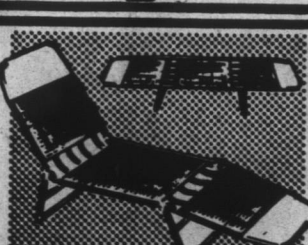
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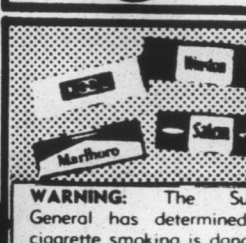
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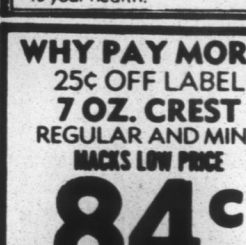
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