

## Weekly Legislative Summary

This is the fifth 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. It is confined to discussion of matters of general interest and of major importance.

Shooting in bills with the earnest concentration of a Rosenbluth getting basketball through a hoop, the General Assembly stretched its head in bill introductions over the 1953 legislature to 78 bills this week. Slowed slightly by a trip to State College's 70th birthday session on Thursday, the members of the House maintained their shooting average with 40 introductions on Friday alone. Featured among the week's introductions were bills to separate the prison system from the State Highway and Public Works Commission and to prohibit political activity by state employees.

**State Government Reorganization.** A reform effort of long standing neared success this week when pa-

pers to divorce the prison system from the Highway Commission were filed (with Administration blessings) in both houses. The marriage was originally one of convenience, made during depression days when it was difficult to secure adequate prison appropriations from the general fund. In recent years it had undergone attacks in the MacCormick Report of 1939 and a highway engineers' report in 1954. A partial separation was effected in 1955, upon recommendation of the State Reorganization Commission, and an interim study commission recommended the final break this year.

The bills submitted would create a State Prison Department headed by a Director of Prisons, subject to policy and rule-making supervision by a 7-member Prison Commission. They declare the State's policy to be provision of diversified employment for able bodied prisoners. A large part of the prison population will continue to work on the roads, under contract arrangements with the Highway Commission, but others will work in State forests and farms, in prison industries, and for agencies of State and local governments under contract with a revolving fund to be used in developing further enterprises.

A companion measure of great interest is a proposal to adopt the so-called Wisconsin plan (with modifications), under which first-term prisoners could be released during the day to work at their regular jobs. Their salaries would be divided between the Prisons Department (for upkeep and personal expenses) and the county welfare department (for support of prisoners dependent upon their release).

Meanwhile, the Governor scored his first major legislative victory of the session with passage of the bill to reorganize the Highway Commission. The measure was shorn, prior to passage, of its anti-politicking provisions. As a replacement, Senator Graves submitted a "little Hatch Act" barring political activity by all state employees. Newspapermen were quick to point out that no enforcement provisions were included, and others were bothered by the broadness of its language. Senator Graves vigorously insisted that his proposal was a serious one.

A member of the state's minority party, Republican Representative Gavin of Randolph, stole part of the Governor's program with a proposal to set up a 9-member commission to study the State Constitution and recommend amendments or a complete new draft to the 1959 General Assembly. The proposal follows the plan of the first constitutional revision effort; commission proposals then were adopted by the 1933 General Assembly, but due to a legal technicality they were never voted upon by the people and thus never became effective.

**Public Welfare.** Another problem concerning which the Governor has expressed concern received attention from a source outside the Administration this week. Representative Speight of Bertie has for several sessions tried to cut off welfare payments to mothers of illegitimate children. Stymied last session by the argument that this would jeopardize state participation in federal funds, this time he sent forward a resolution requesting the state's congressional delegation to seek federal investigation of such payments. Other Speight bills would bar welfare payments to illegitimate children of physically fit mothers, but would liberalize present welfare eligibility requirements to exclude compensation earned by minor children in determining whether family income is low enough to justify assistance.

Major revisions in the court system dealing with domestic relations cases are proposed by several bills introduced. One, effectuating the recommendations of a special study commission headed by County Attorney Nat Crews of Forsyth County, would establish a new system of family courts (with provision for 18 districts, but with establishment li-

mitted to five districts for experimentation pending further legislation). Other measures would designate clerks of superior court as juvenile court judges, authorize counties having over 150,000 population to supplement their domestic relations court personnel and extend the jurisdiction of domestic relations courts.

**Schools.** The two recent school fires in Surry County (one fatal) triggered four measures by Representative Fowler to guard against future disasters. The first three, applicable only to schools, would require regular fire drills and semi-monthly fire prevention inspections, prescribe regulations for reduction of fire hazards and add fire prevention courses to school curricula. The fourth would apply to all buildings built with public funds, and would require that registered engineers prepare plans for electrical, heating, plumbing, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigeration systems and supervise their installation; and where the project calls for an architect, he would be required to supervise construction.

**Motor Vehicles and Highway Safety.** The major proposal of the week relating to highway safety would provide a legal basis for the increasingly popular blood tests for alcohol in driving cases. The bill would prescribe the evidentiary effect to be given such tests, but no one could be required to take such a test and the prosecution could not comment on one's refusal to submit to it. The Judicial Council sponsored another measure, which would increase the maximum penalty for reckless driving to two years' imprisonment (rather than 60 days) and/or a fine in the discretion of the court (rather than a maximum of \$100).

**Criminal Law.** Shoplifters, and persons looking like shoplifters, were the target of two bills, HB 244 would authorize an officer, merchant, or employee with probable cause for believing that a person has stolen goods from the merchant to detain the suspect for a reasonable time without incurring liability for false arrest, false imprisonment, or unlawful detention. HB 275 makes it a misdemeanor for an unauthorized person to willfully conceal un-bought merchandise while upon store premises.

Two Judicial Council proposals would add to the mass of arson statutes. One would make the willful burning of another's property a misdemeanor or a felony, depending upon the value of the property. The second would make it clear that a successful burning of a dwelling house (as well as an attempt to burn) is a felony, and that the offense of burning houses is not covered by a misdemeanor penalty for defacing or destroying such buildings. Aside from criminal penalties, persons playing with fire should take care. HB 264 makes a person who negligently or willfully starts a forest or brush fire liable to the state for expenses incurred in fighting the fire.

**Miscellaneous.** HB 236 would create a Tobacco Seed Committee to identify varieties and require that varieties be registered with the Department of Agriculture for the protection of growers. Senate bills would require permits before outer banks sand dunes or vegetation could be disturbed and would forbid cattle

**Part-time Employment Poses Problem For Rural People In North Carolina**

Jobs for rural people seeking part-time, non-farm employment pose a major problem in North Carolina, according to H. A. Aurbach, rural sociologist at N. C. State College.

Nationally, the number of part-time farmers has increased considerably during the past 20 years, Aurbach declares. This trend, he says, has been much slower in N. C.

In fact, much of this change to part-time farming has yet to take place in the Tar Heel State, Aurbach says.

Aurbach points out that the trend toward part-time farming will continue as long as off-farm job opportunities are good and new mechanization reduces or changes the labor needs on farms.

Why hasn't part-time farming increased more rapidly in North Carolina? Two factors are primarily responsible, Aurbach believes.

The type of farming is one. Many farms — especially those with tobacco — require a lot of attention, particularly during certain seasons. As a result, he points out farmers find it difficult to adjust their work to meet the requirements of other occupations.

Another factor, Aurbach says is the relatively limited non-farm opportunities available in North Carolina, especially in the eastern part of the state.

## THE DUPLIN TIMES

Published each Thursday in Kenansville, N. C., County Seat of DUPLIN COUNTY

Editorial, business office and printing plant, Kenansville, N. C.

**J. BOBBY GRADY, EDITOR — OWNER**

**PAUL A. BARWICK, Assistant Editor**

Entered At The Post Office, Kenansville, N. C. as second class matter.

TELEPHONE—Kenansville, Day 217-1—Night 214-1

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$3.50 per year in Duplin, Lenoir, Jones, Onslow, Pender, Sampson, New Hanover and Wayne counties; \$4.50 per year outside this area in North Carolina; and \$5.00 per year elsewhere.

Advertising rates furnished on request.

A Duplin County Journal, devoted to the religious, material, educational, economic and agricultural development of Duplin County.

West Newspaper Representatives, Inc.

## BUILDING SUPPLIES

IF YOU NEED —

ROOFING

PLYWOOD

MILLWORK

LUMBER

DOORS

All Kinds of Hardware

See

**Mallard-Griffin, Inc.**

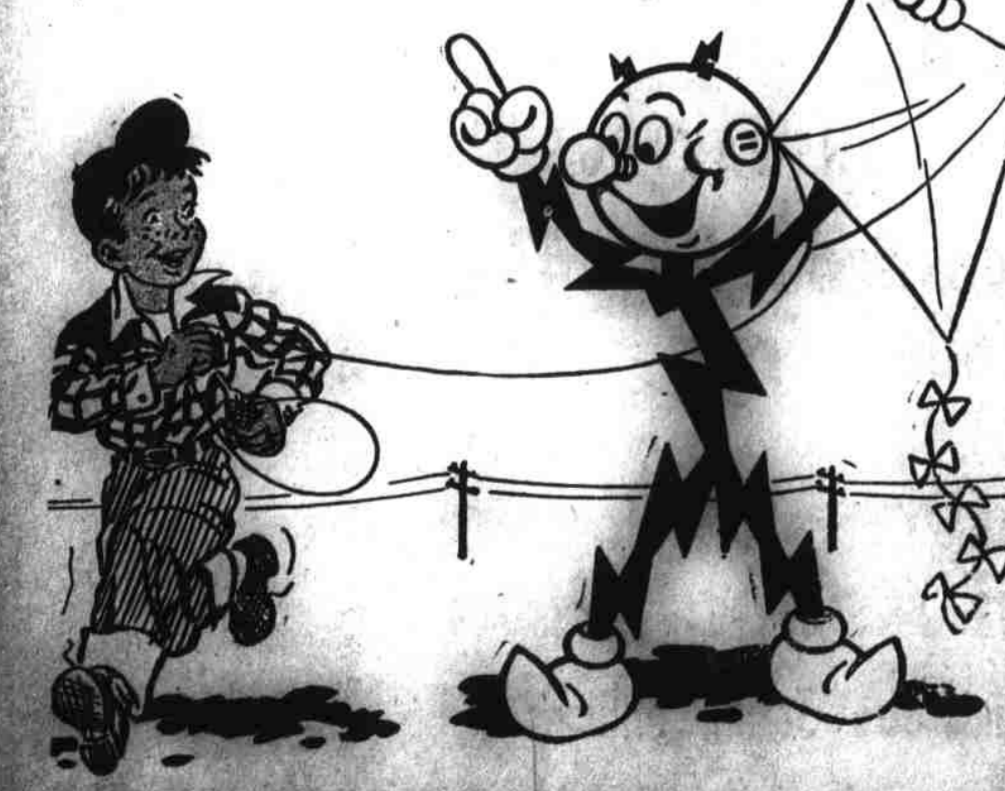
We Are A Small Business But

We Have Large Connections.

KINSTON, N. C.

## FLY KITES SAFELY

- 1 KEEP KITES AWAY FROM ELECTRIC WIRES, and T.V. Antennas
- 2 USE DRY COTTON STRING, not Metal
- 3 NEVER USE METAL ON KITES, or Kite Tails
- 4 NEVER CLIMB POLES, at any time



CAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

**IN THE FINEST IVY LEAGUE TRADITION**

SPORT SHIRTS

by **Brooks**

SOUTHLAND

Pardon our pride, but we're sure that you'll agree that these "Ivy League" beauties are a sensational buy. They are the result of Brooks Southland's fine custom type tailoring and superior fabrics. Come in and take your choice of this spring's newest colors in handsome checks, solids, or plaids, all with traditional "Ivy League" button down collars.

made in WILMINGTON

**WELCOME TO WILMINGTON AND THE AZALEA FESTIVAL**

WHILE IN TOWN VISIT OUR Removal Sale

**Gurr Jewelers**

264 N. FRONT WILMINGTON, N. C.

**TYPEWRITER INSPECTION CO.**

5th & Greenfield Sts., Wilmington, N. C. Phone 5902

TYPEWRITER HEADQUARTERS FOR EASTERN CAROLINA

We've Got 'Em All—No Need To Shop Around

**\$1.00 WEEKLY**

Buys Any Portable Remington—Royal Underwood—Corona

CLIP & MAIL TODAY

TYPEWRITER INSPECTION CO. 5th & Greenfield Sts., Wilmington, N. C.

I am interested in a portable typewriter at your low terms of \$1.00 a week. Please have your representative bring one to me for demonstration, without obligation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

What make interested in? \_\_\_\_\_

Your present typewriter taken in trade. Also USED typewriters for sale.

**Try Springtime in a Buick**

It's the Dream Car of the year to drive!

Such Great New Colors!

Such Great New Zing!

When better automobiles are built Buick will build them

WANT to feel the full glory of the bright new season? Step right into your Buick dealer's showroom!

The moment you enter, it feels like Spring. Bright new Buicks in gay new colors just beg you to be off and away behind the wheel—feeling free and fresh and right in step with the season.

You'll have newness all around you—newness in styling—newness in power and performance that makes these the dream cars to drive.

Go ahead—try Springtime in a Buick. Feel your spirits soar—and make a buy in the bargain!

\*New Advanced Variable Pitch Dynaflo is the only Dynaflo Buick build today. It is standard on Roadmaster, Super and Century—optional at modest extra cost on the Special.

Come Swing into Spring and Prove it Yourself—**Big Thrills Buick**

SEE YOUR AUTHORIZED BUICK DEALER

**DUPLIN BILLS**

HB 89 — Introduced by Johnson, February 25 (Deputy sheriff's Salary) March 12, ratified.

HB 121 — Introduced by Johnson, February 28 (Register fees) March 15, passed Senate.

HB 236 — Introduced by Johnson March 15.

To amend Chapter 114 of the Session Laws of 1951 pertaining to the salary of the county commissioners of Duplin County, and providing another fee deputy sheriff. (Raises salaries of county commissioners to \$85 per month, retroactive to Jan. 1 (now chairman — \$75 and members — \$50). Amends Sec. 8 (apparently should be Sec. 14) of cited chapter to authorize sheriff to appoint five (now four) deputies to serve on fee basis.) To Salaries and Fees.

Such Great New Colors!

Such Great New Zing!

When better automobiles are built Buick will build them

WANT to feel the full glory of the bright new season? Step right into your Buick dealer's showroom!

The moment you enter, it feels like Spring. Bright new Buicks in gay new colors just beg you to be off and away behind the wheel—feeling free and fresh and right in step with the season.

You'll have newness all around you—newness in styling—newness in power and performance that makes these the dream cars to drive.

Go ahead—try Springtime in a Buick. Feel your spirits soar—and make a buy in the bargain!

\*New Advanced Variable Pitch Dynaflo is the only Dynaflo Buick build today. It is standard on Roadmaster, Super and Century—optional at modest extra cost on the Special.

Come Swing into Spring and Prove it Yourself—**Big Thrills Buick**

SEE YOUR AUTHORIZED BUICK DEALER