

With the Legislature

(By Emmet Atkins, Jr.)

Raleigh, Jan. 21—Back of the highway fund diversion fight now boiling in the legislature lies a story with which every tax payer in North Carolina should be familiar. The outcome of that fight is still very much in doubt. But sometime between now and March the issue will be decided one way or the other, and on that decision rests much that is of vital importance to the average citizen.

Most people think the issue will be won according to Governor Hoey's recommendations, namely, that \$7,000,000 be transferred from the highway fund to the general fund to balance the budget for the next biennium. This appears quite likely, but the mere sanction of such a program by the Governor isn't nearly enough to assure its passage. Arrayed against diversion of highway funds is one of the most magnificent lobbies ever to come to Raleigh. In addition to an odd miscellany of recruits—including, of all people, the Rural Letter Carriers Association—the anti-diversion lobby has the more or less open support or sympathy of the gasoline and oil people, the road builders, the Automobile Clubs, the automobile drivers and various others. It is a formidable array, and one with a great deal of capital behind its wishes.

On the other side is the most numerous and insistent lobby of all—the spenders. The spenders are unanimously for diversion—not because of greed, but rather from dispensation. The most ingenious tax-finders in North Carolina have been unable to find any other places to raise money. The ceiling has been reached as far as taxation is concerned. Even the master of all tax-raisers, Huey Long, once remarked, according to legend, that when-

ever he wanted to raise more money, he had only to read the latest tax bill from North Carolina to discover some hitherto untaxed article.

The spending lobby is by no means limited to those on the state payroll, or to the agencies and institutions supported by the state. Even greater than these are the legislators themselves, who are much more sanguine spenders than revenue-producers. No less a statesman than Speaker Libby Ward, recently, over the radio, gravely acknowledged it to be his political philosophy not to tax anybody anymore, and yet to provide "every possible" service for the taxpayers.

Behind the legislators lies, of course, the greatest lobby of spenders—the people back home. The most cynical taxpayer is fundamentally a spender, and it seems to be a maxim of politics that the citizen as a spender is much more voluble than the same citizen as a taxpayer. Fundamentally, the leaning of the legislature toward the principle of diversion arises from the utter despair at ability either to trim the budget by \$7,000,000 or the ability to raise that much more money. An examination of the record shows that legislators are NOT budget-trimmers. About the only budget-cutting ever done in this town has been first by the advisory commission, and (rarely) in the appropriations committee.

The spending lobby has already shown such a strong hand, that anti-diversionists are talking compromise. One compromise proposal would permit diversion this year provided a referendum on the question is submitted at the next election. No one thinks the administration will agree to this. Other compromises involve lesser figures than the \$7,000,000 proposed.

The anti-diversionist lobby, as a part of their campaign to avoid any transfer of funds, will attempt to pare the budget appropriation bill and increase the yield of the revenue bill. So far they have indicated three items as their targets; others will doubtless be singled out later for their fire. Meantime, they propose to abolish the \$400,000 set aside for the purchase of free textbooks during the next biennium. The implications of such a proposal are self-evident—abolish free textbooks to build better roads—a definite step backwards for a state already near the bottom in education. They propose likewise to do away with increased appropriations allotted to the parole and probation commissions, and to the highway patrol, both of which allotments

are strongly favored by the governor.

Presume for a moment that the anti-diversion lobby should successfully push through their bill, what would be the results? The legislature would be faced with the necessity of paring the appropriations by \$7,000,000—which would in turn mean the deleting of numerous state agencies, the abolition of free textbooks, raising the tuition at colleges, cutting down the appropriations for state hospitals, institutions, for farm and soil programs—in short for any number of agencies that urgently need more money, not less. They would likewise have to increase taxes that have already reached the limit. The legislature would be in session till June pondering such a problem.

The odds are in favor of diversionists winning. They have in fact already won their first tilt by keeping the bill away from the Roads committee, where anti-diversionists wanted it to go, and sending it to the Finance committee in both Houses, where it stands a better chance. But whatever the outcome is, it will be the result of the hardest fought battle of the session.

Apropos of the move to abolish the sales tax, Governor Hoey made the following comment this week, "We cannot now repeal the sales tax without wrecking our school system. The sales tax was adopted as an emergency measure in 1933, when the schools were taken over. The appropriation for the public school system was a little over \$16,000,000 for the first year. I need not point out that the emergency still exists when the appropriation for the schools is now \$25,000,000, and I don't believe any person familiar with the facts will say that we are paying our school teachers too much."

The move to increase tuition for North Carolina students at the State's educational institutions appears happily dead. There seems to be a strong probability that the differential of \$100 now existing between non-residents and North Carolina students will be further increased.

A welter of local bills flooded the floors of both Houses during the week. Committees studied them in sessions lasting three and four hours, both morning and afternoon.

The bill exempting employees of the Unemployment Compensation Commission from taking merit examinations, which were held Saturday, January 21, was rushed through Friday in the nick of time. A great sigh of relief went up from 550 UCC clerks and 110 Employment Service workers, whose jobs are insured as a result of the bill. 2500 applicants for future jobs with UCC took the exam Saturday anyway.

The measure to retain execution by lethal gas rather than electrocution was reported favorably by the committee studying it. State prison officials and others who testified before the committee were predominantly for lethal gas. The committee's favorable report is equivalent to passage of the measure.

The joint appropriations committee of both Houses heard requests from representative of the North Carolina College for Negroes for additional allotments to provide for the establishment of graduate schools for negroes. Representatives from other negro schools appeared before the committee to oppose tuition increases. Requests for additional funds came also from the agriculture department, and from numerous other groups.

Other legislative accomplishments of the week included: Inquiry into crop control vote, approved by House committee; hearing of anti-sales tax forces before joint finance committees; hearing of Farm Bureau demands to end duplicated facilities of State College and Department of Agriculture; protest from brewers over proposed increase on beer taxes; new chain store tax proposed; quadrennial legislature proposed.

DENNYVILLE

R. H. Chambers and family, of Thomasville, and Raymond Chambers, of High Point, spent the week-end with the former's son, George Chambers, and Mrs. Chambers, near Ronda.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Chambers spent Monday in Elkin attending to business matters.

Mr. and Mrs. Tuttle Wooten, of Winston-Salem, spent the week-end with Mrs. Wooten's mother, Mrs. Lillie Walker, near Ronda.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Elledge had as their guests Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mayes, Mr. and Mrs. George Chambers and little son, and John E. Byrd, all of near Ronda.

comb and Martin Gray, gave several numbers and the Misses Sparks also sang a duet.

Singing classes, under the direction of Mr. Nance, will begin at Dennyville Wednesday. The public is invited.

Mr. and Mrs. George Pendergrass and two children, of Union Grove, were the Sunday guests of Mrs. Pendergrass' mother, Mrs. Lillie Walker.

Adrian Elledge spent the week-end with Ralph and Reece Chambers at their home near Ronda.

Misses Lucy and Winnie Sparks visited their grandmother, Mrs. Jane Sparks, at Cycle, Sunday.

Rev. N. T. Jarvis filled his regular appointment at Dennyville Saturday and Sunday and brought an interesting and inspiring message at each service.

Mr. and Mrs. Clay Swaim, of Ronda, were the week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Redding.

"What lovely furniture!" said the visitor.

"Yes," said the child, "and the man who sold it thinks so, too. He's always coming here to ask about it."

Curiosity

A New York restaurant man, who had little money for advertising, bought the biggest fish bowl he could find, filled it with water and put it in his show-window with this sign: "Filled with invisible gold-fish from the Argentine." It took seventeen policemen to hold back the crowd!

Still Coughing?

No matter how many medicines you have tried for your common cough, chest cold, or bronchial irritation, you may get relief now with Creomulsion. Serious trouble may be brewing and you cannot afford to take a chance with any remedy less potent than Creomulsion, which goes right to the seat of the trouble and aids nature to soothe and heal the inflamed mucous membranes and to loosen and expel germ-laden phlegm.

Even if other remedies have failed, don't be discouraged, try Creomulsion. Your druggist is authorized to refund your money if you are not thoroughly satisfied with the benefits obtained. Creomulsion is one word, ask for it plainly, see that the name on the bottle is Creomulsion, and you'll get the genuine product and the relief you want. (Adv.)

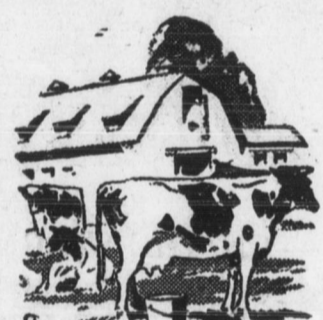
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TAX COLLECTION NOTICE

January Rounds

Pay your 1938 tax and save the penalty which is effective February 1. Pay your 1937 and prior taxes and save the cost of a law suit. The law compels us to start foreclosure proceedings at an early date on all old land sales and personal property taxes. Please pay these old taxes at once and save any additional expense as we must start collection proceedings in a very short time.

We want to give everyone a fair chance, so we are giving plenty of time at the several points for everyone to get out and pay his tax, and we will have the books for all of the years.

THE ELKIN BOOKS WILL REMAIN IN ELKIN WITH W. J. SNOW ALL OF THE TIME. THE BRYAN AND MARSH TOWNSHIP BOOKS WILL BE IN ELKIN EXCEPT WHEN ON TAX ROUND OR PUBLIC DAYS IN DOBSON.

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| <p>MONDAY, JANUARY 30</p> <p>Bryan—Thurmond 9 a.m. to 12 noon
 Mountain Park 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 Siloam—All day</p> | <p>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2</p> <p>Rockford—Copeland school, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 McCormick's Store, 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 Westfield—Westfield 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
 Cook's school, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.</p> |
| <p>TUESDAY, JANUARY 31</p> <p>Eldora—Union 9 a.m. to 12 noon
 Eldora school 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 Franklin—Low Gap, all day</p> | <p>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3</p> <p>Shoals—All day at new school house
 Stewart's Creek—Sid Jarrell's home, 9 a.m. to 12 noon
 Sparger's Store 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.</p> |
| <p>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1</p> <p>Long Hill—Ararat 9 a.m. to 12 noon
 New Shell filling station, 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 Marsh—Phillips Store 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Crutchfield 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.</p> | <p>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4</p> <p>Pilot—All day at Swanson's store</p> |

B. F. FOLGER,
 Tax Collector, Surry County