

# Legislators Begin To Point Toward Adjournment; Spending To Be Record

**GA. Note:** This is the 12th of a series of weekly summaries of the work of the 1949 session of the General Assembly of North Carolina. These summaries are not intended as a report on all legislation, but are confined to discussions of matters of general interest or of major importance.

### Appropriations

The Biennial Appropriations bill was reported out of committee to the House floor on Wednesday, but was then pushed down the calendar to Tuesday, April 5, just four days before the planned sine die adjournment. This bill carries an increase of almost \$38 million over the \$381 million recommended by the Advisory Budget Commission. Most of this increase can be attributed to (1) over \$26 million additional for raising teachers' salaries and reducing the per-teacher load, (2) \$3 million for increased State aid to county health services, and (3) \$1 1-2 million for merit salary increases for State employees in the second year of the millennium. Since the Revenue Bill provides income sufficient only to meet the Advisory Budget Commission recommendations, the committee moved to meet the possible \$38 million deficit by releasing the \$30 million Post War Reserve Fund to the General Fund, hoping that available and future General Fund surpluses would take care of the difference.

### The Permanent Improvements Bill

came up for committee consideration on Tuesday, was swiftly approved, and reported favorably on Thursday in form calling for \$1,027,500 more than the \$72 million measure recommended by the Advisory Budget Commission. Significant, however, were new provisions freezing specifications for all approved building projects, directing the unexpended balances resulting from a drop in construction costs revert to the General Fund.

Before voting on any bill calling for specific expenditure of the \$30 million Post War Reserve Fund, the House on Tuesday was given the opportunity of voting on the more fundamental question—should the fund be spent at all? Just as debate on SB 203, the school building measure, was opened, a House Resolution was introduced calling for cancellation of the fund as a "cushion" against any decrease in General Fund revenue in the coming biennium. The resolution was soundly defeated on a roll call vote of 81 to 31, after which the House proceeded to consider whether or not to spend if for county school buildings.

### School Building Aid

Two weeks ago when SB 203 arrived in the House, it called for a \$50 million bond issue to be submitted to the people, with the proceeds to be allocated \$500,000 to each county for school plant construction. As the bill passed its second reading on Friday, the only change from the Senate version was in the allocation, the House having amended it so that \$250,000 would be distributed to each county, and the remaining \$25 million would be distributed on the

basis of average daily school enrollment in the several counties. Behind this change in the allocation, however, was a week of bitter wrangling and floor debate, with an ensuing parliamentary snarl that some observers said was the worst in years.

The fight centered around the House Finance Committee version of the bill reported out last week; it called for an appropriation of \$30 million from the Post War Reserve Fund and the submission of a \$20 million bond issue to the people. In that form it was unacceptable to the "school forces" in the House, as their plan called for the use of the Reserve Fund to provide for an increase in school teacher salaries to a minimum of \$2200. After several postponements, the bill finally got to the House floor for debate on Thursday and was met by a flood of amendments. When the smoke cleared the proponents of the \$50 million bond issue had triumphed and the Post War Reserve Fund was untapped. Though this was hailed as a victory for Governor Scott's school program, it remains to be seen, first, whether the Senate will approve the bill in its present form, and second, whether the Post War Reserve can now be drained for school teachers' salaries as was proposed by the Appropriations Committee.

### Port Bonds

Wednesday of this week was, in the minds of many legislators and on the lips of at least one, a "great day in the history of North Carolina" because on that day the House passed HB 936 which authorizes the issuance of \$7,500,000 in bonds for the "construction of seaports" in our state; no opposition is foreseen in the Senate.

### Beer, Wine and Stronger Spirits

In interesting contrast to the prolonged struggle over wine regulation two years ago, bills extending State ABC Board regulation of beer and wine (SB 282 and SB 370) have enjoyed smooth sailing so far—weather conditions that might possibly be accounted for by a willingness of the liquor referendum opponents to place curbs on beer and wine in anticipation and preparation for the battle to come two years from now.

Varying in minor details, but agreeing in the principle of reducing the liquor option unit from county to county in a dozen instances, the House bills allowing municipal ABC elections have been assigned to a subcommittee of House Propositions and Grievances for further study. The one Senate bill doing the same thing passed the Senate without much difficulty, but will undoubtedly find its way to the same subcommittee upon arrival in the House.

### Matters of Local Interest

Two bills by which local government stood to gain financially went by the board this week when they received unfavorable reports. One, SB 329, would probably have resulted in wider realization by counties and cities of tax revenues from interurban motor carriers under a formula described in this bulletin when introduced. The other SB 327, would have allowed rebates to municipalities of all taxes paid on gas used in municipally-owned vehicles.

Three sources of local legislation which can be counted on at every session to contribute a deluge are JP appointments, private claims and county board of education appointments. These are acted upon in three "omnibus" bills whose advent is one of the signs of impending adjournment. The JP omnibus bill was ratified Friday—the other two are on the way.

### Propositions and Grievances.

Three recent bills have one unpleasant thing in common—their connection, directly or indirectly, with departing this life. SB 369 certainly has as one of its purposes postponing the inevitable event—it prohibits the handling of venomous reptiles under conditions usually associated with the rites of a cult recently come to this State. SB 352, by way of promoting some good out of the generally unhappy, gives legal sanction and encouragement to the donation by will of one's body or parts thereof for medical use. SB 344, indicating belief that "the evil that we do lives after them" and not wishing to prolong the memory, makes unlawful the inscription on one's tombstone of an accusation of criminality and directs the eradication of any such inscriptions already carved. It was not inconceivable that these three bills might all have figured in the same law suit some day—imagine a snake-handler who will ed a part of his body to science, had the rest of it buried as the result of a playful nip by one of his pets and on whose monument was written

## Check Seed Plates Now, Farmers Urged

"Don't wait until planting day to obtain the proper seed plates for your corn planter—do it now!" urges Dr. R. P. Moore, director in charge of the North Carolina Crop Improvement Association at State College.

Corn hybrids, Dr. Moore explains, are sold by grades which may require special seed plates. Since good stands are needed to make high yields, attention must be given to the statement, "Died while violating the Snake-Handling Act of 1949"—but any chances of this are now remote, since SB 352 itself met an untimely death on Friday when it was reported unfavorably in the House.

the selection of the proper size plates. Many farmers rework the cells of either old or new plates in order to get an accurate seed drop. The important point is to make sure that the largest kernels of corn can be planted without difficulty. If this is done, the smaller kernels will cause no trouble, especially in well-graded lots of corn. Most manufacturers of corn planters are willing to help farmers select the proper plates, says Dr. Moore. However, he adds, farmers must be willing to help themselves. They must realize that luck is neither a good farming partner nor a substitute for the proper plates.

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Rose Royal 25 Lb. Bag	Flour	1.65
20 Pk. Ctn. Any Brand	Chewing Gum	67c
Libby Fruit No. 1 Tall Can	Cocktail	23c
Red Sour Pie No. 2 Can	Cherries	27c
White House 2-No. 303 Can	Apple Sauce	27c

### DAIRY

Dixie-Home	Pound	Margarine	23c
Phila. Cream	3 Oz. Pkg.	Cheese	18c
Sunlight Creamery	1/2 lb.	Butter	35c

### SEAFOOD

Fillet of Flounder, lb.	43c	Mackerel Steaks, lb.	49c
Med. Size Green Shrimp, lb.	57c	Large Roe Mullet	lb. 29c
Dressed Whiting	lb. 19c	Dressed Pan Trout	lb. 23c

### VERI-BEST Produce

Fresh Tender	SWEET CORN	2 ears	15c
Veri-Best Tender	GREEN BEANS	2 lbs.	33c
Fancy Yellow Crook Neck	SQUASH	2 lbs.	29c
	YELLOW ONIONS	3 lbs.	15c

Cracker Jack	2 Pkgs.	Sunshine	Cello Pkg.	Fig Bars	21c
Pop Corn	9c	Sunshine Krispy	1 Lb. Box	Crackers	25c
Cut Rite	125 Ft. Roll	Paas	2 For	Egg Dyes	17c
Waxed Paper	23c	Dash	1 Lb. Can	Dog Food	29c
Phillips	10 1/2 Oz. Can	Liquid No Rub	Pint Can	Wax	47c
Tomato Juice	5c				
Standard Pack 2-No. 2 Cans	Tomatoes	27c			
Shortening	3 Lb. Can	Bakerite	89c		

Tasty	SPRING ONIONS	2 bchs.	23c
Extra	FANCY EGGPLANT	2 lbs.	23c
Crisp Juicy Golden Heart	C E L E R Y	2 lg. stalks	19c
Fancy Red Ripe	TOMATOES	lb.	23c
Crisp Green Carolina	CABBAGE	2 lbs.	9c
Tiny New White	POTATOES	3 lbs.	20c

Large Package	Lux Flakes	30c	New	Rinso	30c	Large Pkg.	Toilet Soap	Small Size	Swan	9c	
Soap	3 Reg. Bars	Lifebuoy	26c	Toilet Soap	Large Bar	Lux	2 for	25c	Large Size	Silver Dust	31c

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