

REORGANIZATION SNAGGED

Legislature Half Through, With Many Problems

(Special to The Herald)

Raleigh, Feb. 2—Apparently the 1933 General Assembly was from one to two weeks ahead of former bodies as it ended its fourth week, but still is a little short of the half-way mark as the first week was a short one. Unless unexpected difficulties arise, this body may be expected to complete its work within the 60-day period, or not long thereafter. But it still has many problems to solve.

Committees have been at work morning, afternoon and night in hearing and considering bills before them. Finance committees have heard complaints of many lines of business and industry against imposition of higher taxes, while the appropriations committees have been hearing pleas for more money for activities carried on by the state. The reorganization committee is besieged with prayers against abolishing or consolidating and eliminating many posts. All committees are having their troubles, and are meeting them as they appear.

Seemingly there is a definite trend discernable against the wholesale abolishing and consolidating recommended by the reorganization committee. This is due in large part to the pleas of those who would be hurt, but also in part to forging ahead by this committee and its demand for action on its measures without committee hearings. The trend is shown by the reversal of the legislative bodies in calling for committee hearings. Doubt is now expressed that even half of the recommendations will be enacted, or that even a small percentage of the \$2,000,000 predicted will be saved if all are enacted.

Health, welfare, educational, agricultural and other forces are beginning to make their voices heard. And it will be hard to get abolishing legislation through, even though there is a huge demand for economy. Two of the committee's measures have been enacted into law, one providing for the voluntary return of \$1,000 a year by justices and judges, which was agreeable to them; the other transfers the Legislative Reference Librarian to the Attorney General's office. Highway construction will doubtless be stopped for two years. The Personnel Director's office will be abolished. So will that of Executive Counsel, probably, but with a pardon commissioner or something else to take its place.

"Shades of Sumter"



Wm. Martin, 83, North Dakota legislator, had his state senate consider a resolution that 40 western states secede from eight Eastern states which he charged "manipulated Congress at the expense of the others." New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts are guilty states.

But when it comes to abolishing the test farms, combining the highway and prison departments, making gasoline and oil and weights and measures inspector of the Highway Patrol, abolishing the Corporation Commission and providing a public utilities commissioner instead, and a few others suggested, there is due a mighty opposition. Some of these may get over, but it seems doubtful.

At the end of the fourth week about 485 bills had been introduced, nearly 150 in the Senate and about 335 in the House, but most were born to die. So far only 53 bills and resolutions had been ratified, most of them local and several of the perfunctory sort. Senate bills introduced last week numbered about 455, while House measures went above 100.

Last week the bills and resolutions ratified and which are now the law include regulation of lobbying, which requires lobbyists to register and to stay off the floors

during sessions; repeal of the five-day notice of minors applying for marriage licenses; allowing a wife to testify against her husband for abandoning his children; providing service of process on all unincorporated organizations, associations, or societies; expediting criminal cases by allowing nolo contendere or conditional guilty pleas without prejudicing rights of the defendant; preventing registers of deeds from practicing law; allowing the Board of Health to abolish, reorganize or create birth and death registration districts, and amending the sanitary district law.

Building and Loan Associations are now permitted to purchase stock and borrow money from Federal Home Loan Banks, cannot be thrown into receiverships so easily, do not have to pay license fees for agents, and the laws are made clearer otherwise. A resolution dealing with the presentation of the portrait of the late Captain Nathan O'Berry, former Sttea Treasurer, last week, and another provides for celebrating the 100th anniversary of the laying the cornerstone of the State Capitol on July 4, probably by the Masons who laid the stone.

A flurry was caused by the resolution calling on Industrial Commissioner T. A. Wilson to explain who paid for paper, stamps and stenographic work on a letter he issued to employees asking them to provide petitions against abolishing the commission and the workmen's compensation law. It went to a committee and may or

may not amount to much.

One bill is in that would abolish the commission, another would place it under the Commissioner of Labor, and another would allow street railway employees to be brought under its provisions.

The expected beer and wine bill, placing a tax on the sale and legalizing them if the U. S. Congress does likewise, has made its appearance, signed by 11 members. Another by "Pete" Murphy would permit medicinal liquor. The Cover Turlington Act repealer is resting in committee, but this probably will not.

The State-wide primary law repeal is also sought. The committee on Elections Laws reported unfavorably the bill to repeal it, but strength was shown in the House when it was re-referred for further hearing. If it weathers the storm it will be by a close call. Another bill would abolish the second primary, and another would change it to August.

The barbers strengthened their hold when they got through the Senate a bill taking them out from under the State Board of Health, extending the scope of the Barber License Law to every village and hamlet, and allow only those far in the country, or parents, employees or tenants to do barber work. A similar act is sought by those who practice the cosmetic art, a bill introduced shows. The House has yet to pass on the barber bill.

The medical profession is seeking to get authority to discipline its

members and revoke licenses as well as license, in a bill partly through. The lawyers are after a similar authority, a bill introduced providing for the examining of applicants, disciplining or withdrawing licenses from lawyers.

All county boards of education and county superintendents of schools would be abolished and 30 school districts, with as many school boards and superintendents established by a measure in the hopper, while another would provide that two or more small counties could elect one superintendent. Teachers would not be required to attend summer school, the compulsory attendance law would be amended and a textbook commission would be appointed, under other bills.

Three new bills would regulate and tax motor trucks, one having been killed.

Miss Elmira Jenkins spent the week-end in Lumberton with friends.

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