

Solons Continue Battle Over Taxes

Raleigh, Feb. 20.—Alternative "general sales" tax of two per cent and a "selected commodity" tax, either to raise an estimated \$6,000,000 of the total estimated \$25,000,000 a year budget, is included in the sub-committee report to the joint finance committee of House and Senate this afternoon, either being looked upon as an emergency tax, to be removed in two years, and coupled with the eight months school term and abolition of most local tax districts.

The sub-committee has amended the budget revenue bill and increased the franchise and income levies to produce an estimated \$19,000,000 a year, and leaves to the committee, as "a matter of judgment" which of the sales tax plans is adopted. It goes on the assumption that the eight months school bill will be enacted, and suggests lowering of certain franchise levies of that is not done. The sub-committee estimated that the removal of the 15-cent ad valorem tax on property, coupled with elimination of local levies for schools and State support for eight months, will be equivalent to a reduction of taxes to the extent of 35 cents on the \$100 valuation.

While the committee finds the highway income for two years "highly speculative," due to dwindling automobile license and gasoline taxes, it suggests that highway activities be limited for two years to debt service and economical maintenance, eliminating practically all new building, and would empower the director of the budget "to use any residue in the highway fund either for the public schools or for general fund needs in the event the yields from the revenue bill fall under our estimates."

Noting the uncertainty of being able to balance the budget, even though that end is sought and expected, the sub-committee suggest that if tax yields are not expected at any time, the Governor is directed either "to reduce by equal and pro rata percentage the pay of every officer, agent and employee of the State, in such proportion as will maintain a balance, or convene the Legislature in special session." The group also stresses the determination "to reduce the cost of government to the minimum required for the State to function effectively and preserve its credit under the grim circumstances surrounding it."

The committee signing the report is Senator R. G. Rankin, chairman, A. D. MacLean, C. M. Waynick, John W. Aiken; Representatives R. A. Doughton, chairman, R. G. Cherry, O. B. Moss, F. H. Coffey, S. M. Gattis, Jr., E. G. Flanagan.

Acting Sergeant-at-Arms



J. Mark Trice, 30 years old and former Deputy under David S. Barry in the U. S. Senate, is now acting Sergeant-at-Arms since the removal of Barry by the Senate Committee. Trice is believed to be the youngest ever to hold the position.

State Inaugural Committee Named

Raleigh, Feb. 20.—Twenty-two prominent North Carolinians, including his three living predecessors, the members of the "North Carolina Ex-Governor's Club," have been named by Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus as members of the N. C. State Inaugural Committee to attend the inauguration of Governor-Elect Franklin D. Roosevelt in Washington, D. C., March 4.

In addition to former Governors O. Max Gardner, Shelby; Angus W. McLean, Lumberton, and Cameron Morrison, Charlotte, and Lieutenant Governor A. H. Graham, Hillsboro, and Speaker of the House R. L. Harris, of Roxboro, the list includes the following:

Josephus Daniels, Raleigh; J. Wallace Winborne, Marion; Mrs. Palmer Jerman, Raleigh; Miss Beatrice Cobb, Morganton; Harry McMullen, Washington; John Horne, Rocky Mount; J. O. Carr, Wilmington; R. B. Terry, High Point; Fred S. Hutchins, Winston-Salem; Jasper Wiggins, Edenton; Alton Lennon, Wilmington; Mrs. Thomas O'Barry, Goldsboro; J. Luther Snyder, Charlotte; J. M. Westall, Asheville; Mrs. J. L. Scott, Greensboro.

Mrs. H. L. Fahey, visited her mother in Oak City, N. C. Sunday.

Bank Deposits Show Bright Evidences Of Financial Stability

Raleigh, Feb. 20.—Evidences of financial stability, slight, but sure, are seen in the report of condition of State banks in North Carolina as of December 31, as compared with September 30, issued by Commissioner of Banks Gurney P. Hood.

For instance, six kinds of bank deposits showed an increase, some of them slight, over deposits of three months before. Demand deposits due banks are less than \$100,000 greater; deposits subject to check are nearly \$3,000,000 more; deposits due public officials are nearly \$2,000,000 greater; deposits secured by pledge of assets are a million dollars more; time certificates of deposit are more by about 100,000, and, stranger, probably, savings deposits showed an increase of nearly half a million dollars, over three months before.

One bank was lost in the three months, the number at the end of the year having been 295, with 80 branches. Total resources increased from \$207,701,291 to \$212,156,021. Loans and discounts dropped about \$3,500,000, while overdrafts almost disappeared, dropping two-thirds. U. S. bonds increased more than one and a half millions; N. C. bonds increased nearly two millions; county and municipal bonds went up nearly two-thirds of a million, while other stocks and bonds dropped more than a million. Amount due from Federal Reserve Bank was a million and a half more; due from approved depositories increased three millions, and cash in vault showed a slight increase.

While capital stock, surplus and undivided profits each showed a slight decrease, reserves increased nearly a million dollars and bills payable were almost \$2,000,000 less. These figures and others in the report give some slight ground for hope, it is believed.

Friends will be sorry to learn Edd Woodruff is ill at his home on Hamilton Street.

Mrs. Harry Johnston has returned to her home in Norfolk, Va. after visiting relatives here.

Still Mystery Child



Hedwig Doe, 6, remains unidentified as American police try to unravel possible kidnapping from Germany.

State Loses To Gas Distributors

Raleigh, Feb. 20.—The State of North Carolina lost another round to half a dozen or more large gasoline distributing companies, Standard, Gulf, Texas, Sinclair, Shell and others, in the action brought by Attorney General Dennis G. Brummitt charging violation of the State anti-trust laws and price-fixing regulations, in the contracts they make with the filling station operators. Mr. Brummitt held hearings a year or more ago of the companies.

The gasoline companies demurred, which is to say, they admitted all Mr. Brummitt charged, but denied that such was violating the law. The demurrers were sustained, and Mr. Brummitt offered new evidence. Judge Cranmer last week held that the briefs offered contained no new evidence and dismissed the action. The next step is an appeal to the State Supreme Court from Judge Cranmer's ruling sustaining the demurrer.

State To Celebrate "Fraternity Day"

Raleigh, Feb. 20.—"Fraternity Day" will be observed in North Carolina on Sunday, April 9, centering in a monster gathering of heads of most of the leading fraternal orders in State and nation in Charlotte, plans for which are being made by a committee of 100 prominent fraternal leaders.

Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus has been invited to speak on "Fraternalism and the State," while Dr. C. K. Proctor, superintendent of the Masonic Home at Oxford, will speak on "Fraternalism, the Home and the Church." A musical program featuring Easter music, will be given under direction of Professor L. R. Sides, head of music in the Charlotte schools.

A banquet of fraternal leaders will be held on Saturday night preceding the fraternal day exercises. D. E. Henderson, Charlotte fraternal leader, made the announcement after calling upon and inviting Governor Ehringhaus to speak.

Miss Mattie Lee Taylor and Miss Clyde Rook spent the weekend in Henderson visiting friends.

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