

## THROUGH CAPITAL KEYHOLES

BEHIND THE NEWS IN NORTH CAROLINA

By Bess Hinton Silver

**TOUCHDOWNS**—Congressman Walter Lambeth has scored with thousands of North Carolina home-owners who had filed application for loans with the Home Owners Loan Corporation but whose papers had not reached the legal division at the time the HOLC order stopping applications came through. Representative Lambeth bucked the line in Washington and there are hopes that he will lead the home-owners to victory. There has been much criticism of the HOLC in this State. Senator Robert R. Reynolds and Congressman Frank Hancock made it so hot that Alan S. O'Neal was given the gate and Scott Noble placed in charge of HOLC administration in North Carolina. Congressman Lambeth is suspected in many quarters of having his eye on the Bount Street Mansion in Raleigh.

**SERVES AGAIN**—The appointment of James L. McNair, Laurinburg, capitalist and sportsman, as a member of the Board of Conservation and Development has brought praise and bear hunting. Mr. McNair is a former member of the Old State Highway Commission and himself points a wicked shotgun and baits a tempt-hook.

**CAPITAL PUNISHMENT**—The electric chair at State's prison is going to get some attention from the coming Legislature. Dr. Charles A. Peterson, prominent Spruce Pine physician and Republi-

can member of the House from Mitchell county, is expected to introduce a bill to change the method from the electric chair to death in a lethal gas chamber. It is also expected that efforts will be made to give judges power to impose life imprisonment sentences in cases where the jury returns a verdict of guilty of a capital offense but recommends mercy. That would untie judges hands from the mandatory death sentence and take a great load off the Governor and his Parole Commissioner.

**AUTO TAGS**—Efforts are going to be made in the General Assembly to reduce the price of State automobile license tags instead of diverting highway money to other purposes. The motorists will like that but not the politicians who want to collect from the uncomplaining car-owner and spend the money elsewhere to avoid other more unpopular taxes. The highway departments also going to need several millions to repair roads and put them back in the condition they were two years ago when the Legislature put legal limits on how much of the motorists' money could be spent for the purpose for which it was collected.

**RESTORATION**—With continued increase in living costs and some increase in State general fund revenues it is now believed in many informed quarters on Capitol Hill that school teachers

and other State employees stand a good chance of having some of their base salaries restored by the General Assembly. It's been lean pickings for State hired help for the past two years.

**RANG THE BELL**—Last week Keyholes told you that Capus M. Waynick, who had resigned his post as North Carolina Director of the Federal Remeyployment program to return to editorial desk on the High Point Enterprise, might get another public appointment. Before some papers had the opportunity to publish that item, Mr. Waynick was appointed Assistant Chairman of the State Highway and Public Works Commission. clothed with all the powers held by the Chairman, E. B. Jeffress, who has been critically ill for two months and is not expected to recover. Just another occasion when Keyholes was ahead of the news although confidential information prevented publication of the whole story.

**HOME-RUN**—Governor Ehringhaus hit one over the fence when he appointed Capus Waynick Assistant Chairman of the Highway and Public Works Commission. It is expected that he will succeed Mr. Jeffress as Chairman and that keeps this important job in the populous Piedmont section. In addition the Assistant Chairman will appear before legislative committees next session and that's where he shines. He made an excellent record in the 1931 House of Representatives and in the 1933 Senate and enjoys the confidence of members of both branches. That means a lot when time comes to iron out difficulties. It has been charged in the past that the Governor didn't know how to make

competent appointments in fine with political wisdom. Such a charge will no longer hold water with those who specialize in the gentle art of politics.

**HHOLDING HIS HORSES**—Lieutenant Governor A. H. (Sandy) Graham isn't in any hurry to start his campaign for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in the primaries of 1936. The Lieutenant Governor is first concerned with making a record as presiding officer of the 1935 Senate. He well knows that announcement of his candidacy for any other political office would cast the shadow of suspicion on his every act during that session. He'll make up his mind about running for Governor after surveying his own record as second in command. But you can jot this down on your cuff—Sandy Graham is not a dead issue in North Carolina politics—watch him.

**JUST OPINION**—Several legislative veterans drifting into Raleigh for one reason or another recently have expressed the opinion that the 1935 session will not last more than ninety days. These men point out that conditions which kept the boys in the Capital City for more than four months

during the past two sessions have just about vanished. The sales tax held the 1931 session long overtime. In 1933 closing of the banks gummed up the works. It is pretty generally agreed that the sales tax, enacted in 1933, will remain on the books and no banking holiday is expected to upset the applecart. If that speculation is correct members of the General Assembly may not have to write home for their Palm Beach suits before sine die adjournment.

**RELIEF**—The question of State contribution to the federal relief program may not bother the General Assembly quite as much as anticipated. The federal government is going to insist that the several States kick in on caring for those without employment but does not specify that State governments must do all the chipping in. It is entirely probable that the matter may be settled on a county basis with each local unit kicking in its share. In that event the State would not have to raise so much in taxes for relief. Many counties having few persons on relief rolls might favor county rather than State relief taxes. At least that's what some people having reputations for seeing beyond their noses believe.



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