

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

NOTE—This is one of a series of weekly summaries of the work of the 1947 session of the General Assembly of North Carolina. These summaries are not intended as a report upon all legislation, but are confined to discussions of matters of general interest or of major importance.

Even before the 1945 session of the General Assembly adjourned sine die, observers were expressing the opinion that the issue concerning the pay of State employees in general and public school teachers in particular would occupy much of the time and attention of the 1947 legislature. The opinion of those observers has already been more than borne out: this session has already seen a supplementary pay bill for the balance of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1947 passed by the Senate as introduced (providing for a 20% average increase for the "lower" brackets for the last 6 months of the 1946-7 fiscal year), amended by the House after strenuous argument to provide increases ranging up to 30%; has already seen the Senate reject the House amendment and throw the bill into conference; has seen the Senate adopt the conference report which would have appropriated within an approximate \$100,000 of the estimated \$8,150,000 additional cost to the General Fund of the supplementary pay bill as amended in the House; has also seen the House by a decided and apparently determined majority reject the same conference report because it did not give the lower bracket employees (those now earning up to \$2,700 per year), and especially public school teachers, the percentage increase provided by the House amendment; has seen additional conferees appointed in both House and Senate; has seen those conferees bring in a report which was promptly adopted by both House and Senate, which report was a victory for all and a defeat for none; the "administration forces" succeeded in holding off an Act which would seem to provide increases above 20% in the lower brackets by having the additional salary payments cover a longer period than 6 months and by having the salary additions called "emergency bonuses" instead of "emergency salaries", and the proponents of the House amendment got within a very few dollars per month in each bracket for which they were contending—all this, while both conference reports explicitly and solemnly declared that nothing in either report, nor any vote on either report, would bind anyone when it came to the consideration of the biennial appropriations bill—the bill which would determine teachers' and State employees' pay for the next biennium.

All this, of course, was technically unfinished business of the 1945 session, but it may have proved to have been something like a testing-ground for this session: in spite of the declaration of both conference reports on the supplementary pay bill that no precedents were being set, both sides acted quite definitely as if a principle were involved, and up to now, neither side has admitted either by word or deed that it has abandoned its principle. And in the meanwhile, opposing and even confusing lines are being formed: the administration seems determined to hold the "20% line," the "regular" education forces seem to be equally determined to bend it, at least upward to 30% for the "lower" (teacher) brackets, while the "South Piedmont Group", having not only organized into a coherent and articulate group but having also engaged separate and influential lobbyists, seems determined to surge

well upward through even the formula. During the past week, the General Assembly received other bills dealing with school teachers: HB 73 would permit any student at any of the State-supported institutions of higher learning to give a note for tuition fees for not over 4 academic years, if he is a resident of the State, enrolls for a course leading to a teacher's certificate, and signs an agreement to teach in the public schools of North Carolina for a corresponding length of time, with note to be cancellable or payable in proportion to the time actually spent teaching; HB 90, which would provide for tuition at summer school conducted by State institutions for teachers having contracts to teach during the ensuing school year and who would agree to teach, notes given for such tuition to be cancelled upon compliance with the teaching agreement, otherwise to be payable with 4% interest from date; and HB 92, which would allow teachers, principals and superintendents to deduct from gross income for State income tax purposes, the "ordinary, necessary expenses" for attending summer school.

Besides the teachers' summer school tax deduction noted above, another tax bill introduced during the past week would permit a taxpayer to deduct from gross income the amount of \$600 or the amount of Federal income taxes actually paid or accrued during the income year

whichever is smaller.

Other bills introduced during the week would make a number of administrative and some substantial changes in the law relating to the apportionment of the Department of State, a city and county valorem tax liens for taxes assessed for the year 1946 and all prior years (as introduced, the bill would become effective upon ratification); permit boards of county commissioners to postpone or defer the revaluation of real property for taxation for the years 1947 and 1948; enact a comprehensive automobile driver's financial responsibility law; rewrite the law on adoptions; amend the law relating to the interstate transfer of children; provide a refund of 5 cents of the 6 cents gasoline tax paid by municipalities on their gasoline purchases; make conviction of husband or wife of a felony a ground for absolute divorce; amend the law relative to fines to permit fines to be drawn from any reliable list, such as telephone directories, city directories, etc., and make other changes suggested by the new Constitutional qualification of women as jurors, also making jury service optional with women called for service; rewrite many provisions of the election law; make numerous changes with respect to the law governing franchise holders and business corporations.



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tingent liability of the Highway Fund to the General Fund for the equivalent of the 3% sales tax on gasoline sales; raise the age at which males and females may marry without parental consent from 16 to 18 years of age, and change other age limits somewhat accordingly; and amend the law dealing with the legitimation of children born out of wedlock and the results growing from such legitimation.

Also during the week—and it comes as something of a surprise to those who thought that the fifty-one odd million dollar General Fund debt retirement appropriation of 1945 took care of all of the General Fund bonded indebtedness—a bill was introduced to authorize the State Treasurer "to pay certain bonds at a range rate according to chapter 98 of the Public Laws of 1879", and to validate settlements heretofore made upon the same basis. The bonds referred to are Civil War and early Reconstruction Period issues. They seem to die hard, those bonded indebtednesses.

Negro Veterans May Advance Education At Local Colored School

Veterans who wish to advance their education may do so by enrolling in "all veterans courses" which can be offered at the Edenton colored school between the hours of 3:30 and 10 P. M. each week-day night. For all who enroll in courses which contribute to high school graduation or general courses in letter writing, arithmetic, English, civics, agriculture, etc., will benefit according to the G. I. Bill of Rights. Because a veteran has a job does not mean that he is not eligible for G. I. benefits. Veterans interested should contact D. F. Walker immediately.

MRS. LAURA HARRELL ON NORTHERN BUYING TRIP

Mrs. Laura Harrell left Edenton Sunday on a buying trip for Badham Bros. While away Mrs. Harrell will visit New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore, where she will purchase a large line of the latest spring and summer merchandise for Badham Bros. Mrs. Harrell expects to return Tuesday of next week.

Greeting Cards
For All Occasions
at
CAMPEN'S
JEWELERS

IN BOTTLES AND AT FOUNTAINS



Pepsi-Cola Company, Long Island City, N. Y.

PEPSI-COLA COMPANY OF ELIZABETH CITY, N. C.

FOR SALE

Nice Building Lot Located In

Pembroke Circle

Size 77 x 153 Feet

— See —

DAVID HOLTON

EDENTON

You can't make Apple Sauce from automobiles—

REMEMBER the old story? Where the teacher said: "Jimmy, how would you divide three apples among four people?" And Jimmy answered: "Make apple sauce!"

We wish Jimmy could solve our problem that easily. We've done our best to keep production up and prices down . . . delivering thousands of 1946 Fords. But we still have unfilled orders for over a million more.

You know the reason for the lag in filling those orders . . . the labor shortages, the material shortages, and all those other hitches in getting back to normal.

That doesn't leave us many apples to divide. And as fair and square as we try to be, we just can't make apple sauce from automobiles. But what we can do is tell you what a great Ford you've got coming up in your future.

And while you're waiting, one other thing we can do is urge you to let us keep an eye on your present Ford to protect your safety, comfort and investment.

Your Ford Dealer

WE REALIZE . . . that the present abnormal demand for automobiles will not last forever; that the day will come when **WE SHALL BE KNOCKING AT YOUR DOOR** asking for business. Therefore, as in the past, we are endeavoring to so conduct our business that we may always merit your confidence and respect.



**SHEAFFER AND
PARKER PENS**
at
CAMPEN'S

Valuable Real Estate For Sale

The property on North side of East Queen Street in Edenton, North Carolina, across the street from Norfolk Southern Passenger Station, consisting of two dwellings and lots and one store building and lot, and known as the Hughes property is for sale, either in parcels or as a whole.

If interested in buying apply to
R. C. HOLLAND, Attorney
Edenton, N. C.

Be Sure And List Your Property In January