

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

This is the fifth in 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 legislations, but are confined to discussions of matters of general interest or of major importance.

Monday through Friday of the fifth full week of the 1947 session saw the introduction of 99 new bills, for a total to date of 484, as against 152 bills introduced during the corresponding period of the 1945 session and that session's total at the end of the same legislative day of 521. At the close of the 33rd legislative day, the House was running practically even with the 1945 House in terms of the number of bills introduced, with 343 bills in the hopper as against 342. The Senate, however, was somewhat behind, with only 141 bills as against 179 in 1945.

Of the 99 new bills introduced through Friday of this week, 63, or 63.6% were local bills concerned with the usual run of local matters. For example, 11 deal with local salaries and fees, 7 with local elections, 5 each with municipal boundaries and local taxes, 3 with local wine and beer sales and others with such matters as recorders' and mayors' courts, local traffic bureaus and the prohibition of the practice of palmistry, clairvoyance and fortune telling.

Although the week was relatively light with respect to the number of new public bills introduced, a few bills which may evoke some interest and a fair amount of argument were started upon their dubious journeys. For instance, there is SB 130, which might be termed the "Biennial Liquor Referendum Bill," which would put to a State-wide vote next November the question of the continuance of ABC liquor stores as well as the legal sale anywhere in the State of any alcoholic beverage except malt beverages containing not over 5% of alcohol by weight, and light domestic wines. Then there is SB 118, which would "provide for the general welfare and protect the health, efficiency and general well-being of workers in the State of North Carolina by providing for minimum wages and maximum hour standards." With numerous exceptions as to its applicability, the bill would provide a minimum wage of 40c per hour, require the payment of time and one-half for time in excess of 40 hours per week, and limit female employees to whom the bill would apply, except for such seasonal periods as the pre-Christmas period, to a maximum of a 9-hour day, 48 hour week, and 6 day week. This bill should stir up some excitement in the same camps already stirred up by the introduction last week of HB 229, which is designed to "make unlawful and to prohibit contracts or combinations which require membership in labor unions, organizations or associations as a condition of employment." (Having learned the power of slogans from the propagandists of totalitarian governments, opponents of this bill are calling it an "anti-union" or "anti-labor" bill, while proponents prefer the term "right-to-work" bill). Both bills at the end of the week were in their respective committees on Manufactures and Labor.

Another bill which might be paired off against one previously introduced is SB 111, which would "create within the Department of Conservation and Development the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission." This bill would set up within the Department of Conservation and Development a 9-member commission, with a commissioner and personnel of its own to manage and promote the wildlife resources of the State with the exception of commercial fisheries and fish. The bill seems to be something of a compromise toward meeting the objection of the "kill of divorcement" introduced in the Senate as SB 66 and in the House as HB 122, which seeks completely to remove control over wildlife (game fish and animals) from the Department of Conservation and Development and place it in an independent commission composed of persons who would presumably bend every effort toward making for better hunting and fishing in the State. This compromise, however, seems not noticeably to have dimmed the enthusiasm of the separatists nor the determination of the retentionists. At a House committee hearing on the separation bill (at which members of the Senate Committee on Conservation and Development found themselves occupying the role of guests, although actively participating), the

pros and antis attended in such numbers that it was necessary to move the hearing to a larger chamber.

Among other bills of general interest introduced during the week, HB 287 would submit to the voters of the State at the next general election a Constitutional amendment which would "fix the salaries of members and presiding officers of the General Assembly at \$900 and \$1,000 respectively and provide additional per diem pay for extra sessions not exceeding 20 days at \$13 per day for members and \$15 per day for presiding officers of the General Assembly; HB 291 would "establish a standard rule of measurement of saw logs or other round timber," the standard rule which would be thereby established being the so-called "International Log Rule," and the bill would make it illegal to use any other in determining the number of board feet in sales or contracts of sale of standing timber, saw logs or other round timber; HB 320 would authorize boards of county commissioners to appoint county electrical inspectors to inspect and enforce State and local laws relative to electrical installations; and SB 134 would require motorists to carry in their motor vehicles two red fuses capable of burning at least 20 minutes for use in the event of emergency stops on the highways outside of municipalities.

On Thursday there was held in the House chamber a public hearing upon a widely publicized measure, the "Medical Care Program." As had been generally expected, the chief and practically the only target of the opponents was that part of the program which proposes to establish a 4-year standard medical school at Chapel Hill with a 400-bed teaching hospital. As had also been generally expected, the public hearing which lasted nearly 4 hours threw very little light upon the probable fate of the University medical school and hospital. Considering the large number of powerful organizations and of prominent individuals on record as publicly endorsing the entire program and the heavy and determined pressure against adoption of the medical school and teaching hospital part of it, the joint Appropriations Committee clearly has in this bill a very hot potato. On lesser issues than this, men have in the past been politically made or broken.

On Tuesday HB 71, which would have given municipalities a 5-cent refund on the 6-cent State gasoline tax

paid on motor fuels purchased by them (and used to a large extent by vehicles employed almost entirely upon city streets in such essential governmental functions as police work and fire fighting) came up in the House on second reading and after a debate bordering somewhat on the acrimonious, was defeated. The following day saw the introduction of another highway fund bill designed to give the financially hard-pressed municipalities some relief. HB 310 would permit cities and towns after taking care of highway system streets and connecting links, to use, on any of their streets designated by their governing bodies, any balance of the State funds remaining to their credit. Another bill which bit the dust during the week was HB 15, which aspired to "reaffirm the truth of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of May 20, 1775, and to promote the better observance of that event as being one of the achievements that brought honor and glory to North Carolina during the American Revolution"—reported unfavorably by the House Committee on Education.

HB 181, introduced by John W.

Graham, having to do with medical treatment contracts in Edenton, passed second reading in the Senate Friday.

Miss Rosa Asbell In Minstrel At College

Miss Rosa Asbell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Asbell, took part in "The Dixieland Minstrel," presented by the Veterans Club of East Carolina Teachers' College on February 4th and 5th. Miss Asbell is a freshman at ECTC, and was one of eight girls chosen to do a specialty dance number, "The GI Jive."

This dance was so popular that the group has been requested to repeat it in a minstrel which the Kiwanis Club of Greenville is presenting in April.

District Farm Bureau Meeting Held Here

No. 1 District of the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation held its

officers' and boards of directors' meeting in Edenton Thursday, with Will Rogers of the State Farm Bureau officiating at the meeting.

Principal matters given attention at the meeting were how to keep the County Farm Bureau alive and active throughout the year, activities of

some county organizations, improvement of the organization's newspapers, setting tentative membership goals for the 1947 fall drive, time for the fall drive and how to put it over. Fifteen counties were represented by farmer members who participated freely in the discussions.

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Today (Thursday) and Friday,
February 20-21—

Loretta Young and
David Niven in

"THE PERFECT MARRIAGE"

Saturday, February 22—

Bob Steele and Syd Taylor in

"SIX GUN MAN"

Sunday, February 23—

George Raft and
Sylvia Sydney in

"MR. ACE"

Monday and Tuesday,
February 24-25—

John Garfield and
Joan Crawford in

"HUMORESQUE"

Note—Due to length of this picture, shows 3:30, 6:10 and 8:50 P. M.

Wednesday, February 26—

Double Feature

Jimmy Wakely in

"TM FROM ARKANSAW"

Robert Lowery in

"GAS HOUSE KIDS"

Coming February 27-28—

Taylor and Hepburn in

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