

## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

This is the sixth 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 legislation, but are confined to discussions of matters of general interest or of major importance.

From the standpoint of the number of bills introduced, the 1947 General Assembly continues to lag somewhat behind the 1946 session. At the close of the 39th legislative day, a total of 608 bills had been introduced, as against 672 in the same number of days in 1946. A little over 42% of the "lag" is attributable to the first 5 days of the past week, with only 124 bills introduced during that period as against 151 for the similar period of last session. This could mean one of three things: (1) not as many bills will be introduced this session as there were in 1946, which would make, on paper at least, less work to do and tend to produce a shorter session; (2) many legislators feel that the large amount of important business now before the General Assembly will keep it in session somewhat beyond the time spent in 1946 (677 legislative days), so they do not feel under a great urgency to get their bills drawn and into the hopper; or (3) it may be that the time and attention of the legislators have been so taken up with important and spectacular matters already before the Assembly that they have had less time than in 1946 to think up, draw up, and introduce particular measures which they or their constituents normally would consider the principal reason for their coming to Raleigh. In other words, it may be that the magnitude and importance of State business at hand is to some extent at least "crowding out" some of the less important matters concerning which bills otherwise would have been drafted before now and submitted for action. For there is this fundamental difference between the 1945 and the 1947 sessions: except for the normal, routine business of keeping the State going for another biennium and of passing such corrective legislation as seemed to be indicated, the 1945 session was concerned largely with seeking formulae for delaying final solutions to many vexing problems until the war should end and conditions should return to "normal" or until, at any rate, forecasts could rise a little above the dignity of mere guesses. The 1945 session was largely successful in postponing decisions, but those same problems, together with others equally as insistent, now demand solution whether or not the crystal ball has sufficiently cleared to reveal more than a hazy outline of the future.

Perhaps one of the largest crowds in the history of the State to attend a legislative committee hearing converged on Raleigh last Tuesday. The occasion was the public hearing on HB 196 before the Joint Finance Committee, and the crowd was around 3,000, according to newspaper estimates—so large that the hearing was moved from the hall of the House to Memorial Auditorium. The bill which attracted such a gathering would amend the laws dealing with cooperative, mutual and marketing associations so that such organizations would no longer be deemed non-profit associations, would become subject to laws relating to monopolies, and would no longer be specially exempt from license, income and franchise taxes. At the end of the week the bill was still in committee.

Several other previously introduced bills of general interest received some attention during the past week: the Senate committee substitute for SB

38, which would provide a State-wide statute of limitations of 10 years upon suits to foreclose the lien of local ad valorem taxes, passed the Senate, was sent to the House, and there assigned to the Finance Committee for further study; a committee substitute for SB 4, introduced the second day of the session, which would prohibit the sale, possession or use of fireworks with certain exceptions, such as public display under permits issued by boards of county commissioners, passed the Senate and was sent to the House; reported unfavorably by Senate committees on the same day were SB 31, which would have made teachers' and principals' salaries payable in 12 monthly installments; SB 86 which would have raised Superior Court solicitors' salaries and expense allowances from a total of \$5,000 each to \$7,500 each, and SB 87 which would have reduced Superior Court solicitor districts from 21 to 19; and SB 74, which started off to make it illegal to leave any child of 7 or under in an automobile unattended by a person of 14 or over, and which passed the Senate as a committee substitute which would make it illegal in only 4 counties to leave a child of 5 or under in an automobile unattended by a person of 12 or over for more than 20 minutes, was tabled in the House while still other amendments were being drawn.

Other bills of more direct interest to many citizens received attention: SB 104 and HB 194, which embodied the so-called "South Piedmont Plan" for teachers' pay and which were introduced simultaneously in the Senate and House, were simultaneously reported unfavorably by the Senate and House committees; HB 229, introduced February 5, 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" was, on February 21, reported favorably without amendment by the House Committee on Manufactures and Labor; and on Wednesday, the House reported favorably with minor amendments HB 133 which would set up a Wildlife Resources Commission outside of the Department of Conservation and Development, and the bill passed its second and third readings in the House the following day. The bill now goes to the Senate, where sentiment may be somewhat different.

Among new bills of interest introduced during the week is SB 145, which would afford the electorate of the State an opportunity to mend its licks by submitting a constitutional amendment to declare women ineligible for jury service; HB 367 which (as a 1945 bill which fell by the wayside would have done) would place taxi-cabs under the jurisdiction of the State Utilities Commission; HB 378 which would extend the powers of housing authorities with respect to the acquisition, clearance and rebuilding of slum areas; HB 412 which would provide compensation for persons erroneously convicted of felonies, up to \$500 per year spent in prison but not exceeding a total of \$5,000; HB 390 which would start local tax penalties on January 2 rather than February 2 and allow discounts for prepayment of only 1% if paid during August and ½% if paid during September; SB 155 which would re-

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peal the two statutes which permit absolute divorce on the grounds of 2 years separation (but which received an unfavorable report from the Senate committee 2 days after introduction); and SB 180 which would "discourage bootleggers" by making mandatory their minimum punishment upon first conviction a fine of \$500 or 6 months imprisonment, on their second a fine of \$750 or 9 months imprisonment, and on their third a fine of \$1,000 or 1 year imprisonment.

We are neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, nor the seventh son of a seventh son. Our crystal ball more resembles a prism than a globe: the more light thrown upon it, the more light is refracted thereby, and the more suffusing and diffusing are the shadows of things to come. Yet, focusing all the light now available and discounting refractions as to the best of our ability, we venture at this time a prophecy as to the final adjournment date (subject to correction without notice): Thursday, April 10.

HB 181, introduced by Representative John W. Graham, having to do with medical treatment contracts in Edenton, passed third reading in the Senate February 17 and was ratified February 19.

### SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY

Miss Doris Layden of Hobbville was honored Monday evening, February 10, at 7:30 with a surprise birthday party at her home.

Games and contests were enjoyed with Misses Jean Hollowell, Daisy Monds and Frances Ann Goodwin winning prizes. The honoree received many lovely and useful gifts, which she gratefully acknowledged. During the evening ice cream, cake, candy and nuts were served.

Those attending and sending gifts were Miss Doris Layden, honoree, Misses Joyce Riddick, Edna Ward, Sarah Jane Boyce, Dorothy Eason, Jean and Judy Hollowell, Frances Ann Goodwin, Margaret Winslow, Daisy Monds, Sybil Chappell, Margaret Smith, Anna Faye Copeland, Hallie Bunch, Carolyn Riddick, Janet Faye Hendrix, Betty Lois and Ruth Ann Layden, Marlene, Sylvia Ann and Clemma Layden and Roy Bunch, Carlton Layden, Willard and Parker Copeland, Murray Bunch, James Roy Winslow, L. E. Riddick, Herbert Lane, Jake White, Joseph Byrum, W. M. Byrum, Jr., Louis Monds, Joseph and Hallett Evans, Eugene Jordan, Johnny Mack Hendrix, James Oliver, Jr., Kenneth Ray, Wesley and Millard Layden, Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Riddick, Mr. and Mrs. Mack Hendrix, Mr. and Mrs. Preston Monds, Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Layden and Mr. and Mrs. Archie Layden.

## Mrs. Mary Dale Spry's Post-War Verse Part Of 'Tribute Of Triumph'

The Exposition Press of New York has announced the publication of "Tribute of Triumph," an anthology of post-war verse, which includes the work of Mrs. Mary Dale Spry, 219 North Eden Street.

Numbering among its contributors many of America's best-loved contemporary poets, the book, which is a dedicatory tribute to those who fought for America in the last war, contains a special section of biographical material concerning its contributors. It is expected that 200 radio stations in this country and Canada will broadcast from its contents, as has hitherto been the custom with anthologies from this publishing firm.

A prize award of a \$100 Victory Bond for the best poetry in "Tribute to Triumph" was given to Wilda B. Gattrell of Lost Creek, W. Va.

The Exposition Press is now in the process of preparing another anthology, and hopes to discover many more "mute, inglorious Miltons" among the thousands writing poetry today.

## E. H. S. Students View Official War Picture

Edenton High School students witnessed an official War Department film, "Appointment In Tokyo," Thursday of last week. The picture, filmed by Signal Corps photographers during

some of the most bitter fighting in the Pacific theater, was presented to the student body by Sgt. Paul R. Fisher and Sgt. William M. Buckner of the U. S. Army Recruiting Station in Elizabeth City.

The picture covered General MacArthur's return to the Philippines, the battle for Manila and the triumphant return to Bataan, and finally the signing of the surrender documents aboard the battleship Missouri. After the picture a brief talk on the advantage of the New Regular Army was given by the recruiting team.

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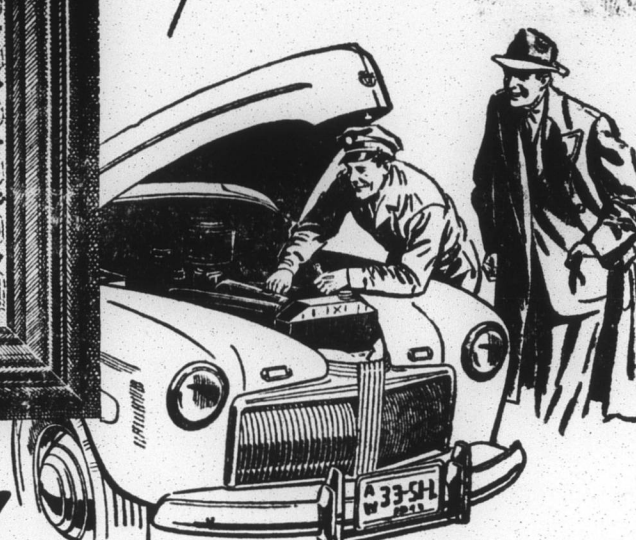
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