

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

This is the eighth 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.

At the close of the 51st legislative day, 242 bills and resolutions had been introduced in the Senate, and 620 in the House, for a total of 862, which is just 199 short of the 1,061 introduced during the same period in 1945. Of the 862 bills, only 124 were introduced during the first five days of the past week, as compared to 181 during the comparable five days of the 1945 session. As suggested in the summary of February 22, this apparent "slow down" in the introduction rate may tend to produce a shorter session than if a greater number of bills were being handed in; for it certainly means, unless bills are introduced at a substantially accelerated rate within the next week or two, that the Legislature will have at least a smaller volume of bills to attend to before it can adjourn, and it may very well mean that the members are giving more time and attention to matters already pending than to thinking up new measures.

As to this latter point, it is apparent that most committees are working hard and earnestly to dispose of important matters before them, and major issues are beginning to come to a head and, if not finally disposed of in committee, to reach the floors of the House and Senate. For example, on Friday, the committee substitute for the Biennial Revenue Bill was reported by the House Finance Committee, the committee substitute was adopted, and the bill was set as a special order of business for Tuesday, March 11. (The changes in the original bill effected by the committee substitute are too numerous and technical in nature to be dealt with here.) Perhaps the changes of most general interest are those which will allow public school teachers, principals and superintendents to deduct from gross income for income tax purposes up to \$250 in any one year for expenses incurred in attending summer school; delete the proposed amendment which would have reduced the intangibles tax rate on money on hand from 25c to 10c on the \$100; add a provision which would change the rate of tax on gross insurance premiums (other than Workmen's Compensation insurance) from 2% on all companies doing business in the State to 1% on domestic companies and 2 1/2% on foreign and alien companies; and carry out Governor Cherry's recommendation that the contingent liability of the Highway Fund for the equivalent of the sales tax on gasoline sales be repealed). Although not yet ready for formal report, committee work on the other important biennial money measure—the appropriations bill—was wound up on Thursday. Among other things, this report, which will recommend record expenditures for the next biennium of over \$11 1/2 million dollars, would add

over 6 million dollars to the public school funds for the biennium, to provide an approximate 30% increase (as compared with the 20% provided by the original bill) in instructional salaries, but leaving the increase for other State employees at the original 20%. At the same time, the Joint Appropriations Committee voted to transfer \$9,300,000 from the general fund surplus to the Post War Reserve Fund, to raise that fund to an approximate \$30,000,000.

Action was taken on some other bills of general interest during the week: HB 548 introduced Tuesday (but the same as SB 219 introduced Monday), which would authorize the Governor to appoint a 35-member State Education Commission composed of representatives of agricultural, business, industrial, professional and educational groups to study the overall educational problems of the State, was reported favorably by the Committee on Education and referred to the Appropriations Committee to consider the requested appropriation of \$50,000 for the biennium to cover expenses; the Senate Finance Committee voted an unfavorable report on one Senate State-wide liquor referendum bill, SB 130, the "Penny" bill, while SB 200, the "Chaffin" bill on the same subject remains in committee; HB 474, which was introduced February 26 and which would have given State-wide application to the "hasty marriage law" now applicable to only a few eastern counties, received a hasty death at the hands of the House Committee on Judiciary 1; HB 469, which would have made it illegal to operate a filling station between 10:30 A. M. and 1 P. M. on Sundays likewise received an unfavorable committee report; SB 208, designed to raise the limitation on municipal ad valorem taxes for general

expenses from \$1 to \$1.50 on the \$100 valuation was reported favorably by the Senate Committee; HB 516, which would submit at the next general election a constitutional amendment to raise the salaries of members and presiding officers of the General Assembly to \$1,200 and \$1,500 and allow them \$250 and \$300 for extra sessions, respectively, passed the House and was sent to the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendments; HB 133, creating a Wildlife Commission outside of the Department of Conservation and Development, after numerous amendments, passed both House and Senate and awaited only the signatures of the presiding officers to become law; HR 515, a joint resolution authorizing the Governor to appoint a 17-member commission to study laws and regulations concerning the production, processing and distribution of milk and milk products passed the House; two bills, HB 137 and HB 543, which would have made slight changes in the age at which children are eligible to enroll in school, were reported unfavorably, as was HB 367, which would have given the Utilities Commission jurisdiction over the licensing and regulation of taxicabs; ratified on Wednesday was SB 4, which imposes a ban upon the manufacture, sale and use of fireworks in the State (except at public exhibitions under special license of the local board of county commissioners); and HB 148, which would have made of the second Wednesday in August a new holiday known as "State Farmers' Day," was killed by the House Committee on Agriculture.

Among new bills of interest introduced during the past week are SB 224, which would give the State Board of Health increased regulatory powers over the production, processing, sale and distribution of milk and milk products; SB 228, 229 and 230, designed to strengthen the fire laws of the State, particularly with respect to fire hazards in hotels and other buildings of like occupancy; HB 552,

which would substantially up the penalties for violations of the hunting and fishing laws; HB 553 and 554, which would amend and (presumably) strengthen the game laws, and HB 561, which would appropriate an additional \$50,000 to be used for the completion of the "Table Rock Small-mouth Bass Hatchery"; HB 571, which would require that heating equipment be installed in school buses; SB 232 (introduced also in the House as HB 590), which would appropriate \$50,000 for each year of the next biennium for maintenance and operating expenses of the State Ports Authority; SB 236 (HB 607), which would create within the Department of Conservation and Development a Shellfish Division (with a Shellfish Commissioner) to supervise the oyster, clam, scallop and other bi-valve resources in the waters of Eastern North Carolina, and would appropriate \$250,000 for the purpose; HB 592, which would empower municipalities to extend their boundaries by a local procedure without special legislative action; HB 604, which would appropriate \$35,000 to set up and start into operation at Camp Butner a vocational school for veterans; HB 610, which would enable the Department of Conservation and Development to develop and charge fees for the use of recreational facilities in State forests, parks, lakes, etc.; and HB 565, which would "prohibit disorderly conduct by any person or persons within the State of North Carolina." This last measure, which would make it unlawful to "disturb the good order and quiet of the

State" by (among other means) "making loud noises," will no doubt be regarded by many legislators with some approval toward the end of this somewhat trying session.

HB 582, introduced by John W. Graham, calls for amending Chapter 186 of the Private Laws of 1909 relating to the charter of the Town of Edenton so as to grant to the town certain powers with respect to property leased from the United States Navy Department. The bill would add a section to the town's charter, concerning the Edenton Naval Air Station property which is leased by the town from the U. S. Navy Department, to authorize the governing body: to provide police protection, with police officers having the same authority on the air station property as they now have in Edenton; to provide fire protection; to provide public utilities; to lease parts of the property to private individuals, subject to

the lease from the Navy Department; and to adopt ordinances and exercise all powers with respect to the property which governing body now has with respect to territory within corporate limits, subject to provisions of lease. Powers would terminate upon termination of lease from Navy Department. The bill was sent to Judiciary No. 2.

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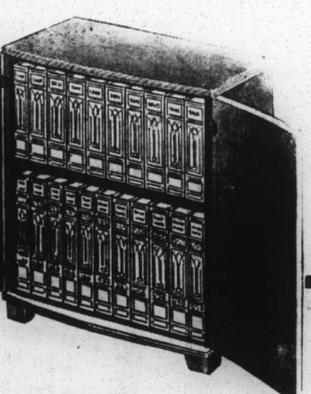
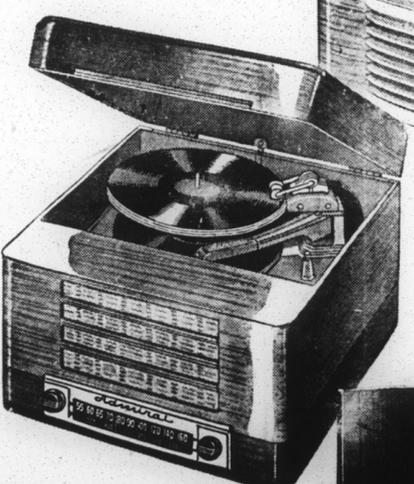
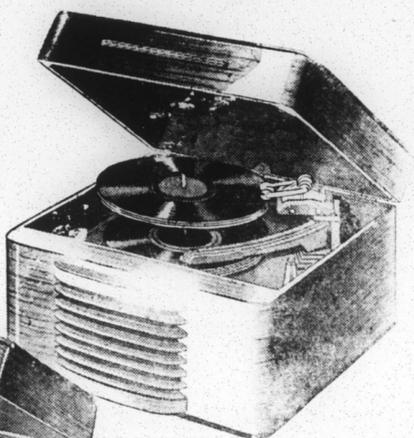
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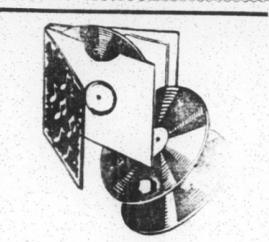
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