

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

This is the tenth 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 63rd legislative day in 1945, with only four more legislative days to go, a total of 1,421 bills had been introduced in the General Assembly, a Senate rule had been adopted setting a deadline (Saturday, the 64th day) for the introduction of new bills (18 were subsequently introduced in that body under suspension of the rules, however), a Calendar Committee had been appointed and was functioning in the House, Saturday was to be abandoned as sacred to "local bills only," and both bodies had been holding morning, afternoon and night sessions in an effort to clear their dockets and clear out. At the close of the 63rd day of this session, a total of 1,260 bills had been introduced, no deadline for new bills

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT

Edenton, North Carolina,
Monday, March 17, 1947.

The following Resolution was introduced by E. N. Elliott, duly seconded by J. R. Peele, and unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, in the untimely passing last night of the Honorable C. Everett Thompson, Judge of the First Judicial District of North Carolina, the peoples of our District and the entire State suffered a shock beyond expression; and

WHEREAS, the State has lost one of her most distinguished, able, conscientious and kindly disposed jurists whose popularity extended far beyond the confines of his own District; and

WHEREAS, his family has suffered the irreparable loss of a most gentle, affectionate and considerate husband and father; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That on behalf of ourselves individually, and for the people of our county whom we represent, we extend to the members of his family our sincere and profound sympathy; and,

RESOLVED further: That a copy of these resolutions be sent to The Chowan Herald and the Elizabeth City Daily Advance for publication, a copy to the bereaved family and a copy spread upon the permanent minutes of this meeting.

Done in Edenton this 17th day of March, A. D. 1947.

W. W. BYRUM,
Chairman of the Board of Chowan County Commissioners.
Attest: M. L. BUNCH,
Clerk to the Board.

(Seal)



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had been set in the Senate, no Calendar Committee had been appointed in the House (although the Speaker had been invested with authority to do so the previous week, when deemed advisable), no more than one session per day had been held by either house, and Saturday was still "for local bills only." Comparing the situation at this point in the present session with the 1945 and prior sessions, and in view of the tremendous backlog of bills still to be disposed of and the greatly accelerated rate at which new bills have begun to flow into the hopper (an average of 40.2 for each of the past five days), we venture to reiterate our prognostication of a month ago: Final adjournment on April 10. This date may be a little off one way or the other, but for us whose energies are running at low ebb, April 5 seems entirely too hopeful.

A goodly number of legislative events of general interest, and some of major importance, took place during the past week. Among bills ratified was SB 254, which will submit a Constitutional amendment at the next general election on the question of raising the county general fund tax from a rate of 15c to 25c on the \$100 property valuation; HR 321, a joint resolution which authorizes the State Department of Conservation and Development to cooperate with the U. S. War Department in its Roanoke River flood control and hydroelectric project at Buggs Island; HB 109, which generally boosts the marriage age upwards two years so that, among other provisions, males and females must be at least 18, instead of 16, before they can marry without parental consent; HB 22, which increases the Post War Reserve Fund to an approximate \$30,000,000 by the addition of \$9,300,000 from General Fund surplus; HR 516, a joint resolution which authorizes the Governor to appoint a commission to investigate and report on the laws and regulations relative to the production, processing and distribution of milk in the State; HB 516, which will submit at the next general election a Constitutional amendment to increase the pay of members and presiding officers of the General Assembly to \$1,200 and \$1,500 respectively and to allow them \$250 and \$300, respectively, for extra sessions (reported favorably Friday was HB 276 which would amend SB 11, the Supplemental Appropriations bill, already ratified, as to allow members of the present General Assembly the same subsistence and travel allowance as State employees—\$6 per day and 6c per mile in own cars, any Constitutional question notwithstanding); and HB 229, banning the "closed shop" and other labor contract features dear to the hearts of labor unions—enacted in its original form, without so much as a semi-colon being disturbed. The passage of this bill over relatively weak opposition in the Legislature and manifestations of strong opposition outside of it, coupled with the decisive defeat on second reading in the Senate of SB 118 which would have provided a State, wage and hour law, had led some to term this an anti-labor Legislature. It is doubtful whether this term could properly be applied to a majority of the members, even if it were interpreted to mean "anti-labor union." Some members were doubtless influenced, however, by an understandable resentment toward some of the national labor leaders.

Some interesting bills made progress along the legislative path during the past week: SB 203, which would increase the municipal tax levy limitation for general expenses from \$1 to \$1.50 on the \$100 assessed valuation, having passed the Senate, was reported favorably by the House committee and appeared to have clear sailing ahead; SR 274, which would authorize the Governor to appoint a commission to study the desirability of establishing a court to hear claims against the State, passed the Senate; the committee substitute for SB 38, which would establish a 10-year statute of limitations of the foreclosure of ad valorem tax liens, was reported favorably by the House Finance Committee (but was sent back to that committee midst a flurry of proposed floor amendments aimed at excepting a large number of counties from its provisions); the committee substitute for HB 25, the Budget Revenue bill, after repulsing all attempts to amend it from the floor, passed its final read-

ing and was being enrolled for ratification; SB 196, which would submit a Constitutional amendment to the people on the question of repealing Section 4, Article 5 which imposes a limitation on the increase of State, county or municipal debt for necessary expenses, was reported favorably in the House (but further consideration was postponed to March 25); and HB 738, which would submit a Constitutional amendment relative to succession to the governorship in an effort to avoid in the future such a situation as arose in Georgia, was reported favorably by the House committee (but was sent back to committee for further study because best official legal minds had been unable to agree upon true effect of proposed amendment).

Among bills that fell by the wayside was HB 487, the House (and sole remaining) State-wide liquor referendum bill, killed by an unfavorable committee report, and likewise laid to rest were some 30 local beer and wine bills of various hues (but most of the counties affected tied onto one of the two "model" bills which would prohibit the sale of wine in the counties affected and would permit city and county governing boards to regulate or prohibit the sale of beer in their territories, except that local boards could not prohibit the sale of beer in Grade A or Grade B cafes, restaurants or hotels). In the meantime, HB 180, which would provide a referendum in Hickory on the question of the establishment of liquor stores by that city, was reported favorably by the House committee and will come up for consideration on the floor next Tuesday, and HB 497, calling for a referendum on the establishment of liquor stores by Mecklenburg County, passed the House and was ordered sent to the Senate.

A sampling of new bills: HB 811 would "provide a 5-day 40-hour work week for State employees"; SB 338 would add to the list of public nuisances any place where drunkenness or fighting frequently occurs; HB 827 would establish daylight saving time in the State from the last Sunday in March until the last Sunday in October; SB 351 would increase the salaries of Superior Court solicitors, exclusive of expense allowance, from \$5,000 to \$5,750 per year; SB 360 would appropriate \$1,500,000 for the acquisition and conversion of Camp Butler into a State mental hospital; HB 881 would require any county, on petition of 15% of qualified voters, to call a beer and wine referendum; and SB 353 would require every person, firm or corporation engaged principally in influencing public opinion and/or legislation to register with the Secretary of State, giving certain in-

formation including itemized statements of income. Although applicable to users of media entitled to second class mail privileges and/or of radio, one may wonder, supposing the bill were enacted and obeyed by all to whom applicable, how large a book the Secretary of State would need.

Aside from HB 582 and HB 650, introduced by Representative John Graham, two others, HB 776 and HB 777, were introduced Tuesday of last week. HB 776 calls for amending Chapter 1046 of the Session laws of 1946 relating to hasty marriages so as to exempt Chowan County from said act. The bill would exempt Chowan from operation of cited Act which requires an application for marriage license for non-residents of North Carolina to remain on file 48 hours before issuance of license.

HB 777 will permit the Town of Edenton to appoint two persons who shall be authorized to issue criminal warrants. The bill authorizes the governing body of Edenton to appoint two warrant officers who shall have power to issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and warrants or other process for the arrest of violators of the law anywhere in Chowan County, such warrants to be directed to any city police officer, sheriff or constable, and to be returnable before any justice of the peace or other court in Chowan County in the same manner as any other criminal warrant.

Holy Week Services At Methodist Church

Holy week, which begins next Sunday, Palm Sunday, will be observed in the Methodist Church with three services scheduled to be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights of next week. Each of the services will begin at 7:30 o'clock, with the pastor, the Rev. H. F. Surratt bringing an appropriate message.

Thursday night the Holy Communion will be observed in commemoration of the Lord's Supper. The observance of the Holy Communion will take the place of the usual observance on the first Sunday morning in the month.

Greeting Cards For All Occasions

at
CAMPEN'S
JEWELERS

Ginning Of Cotton In Chowan County 461 Bales Short Last Year

Chowan County continues to trail last year in the amount of cotton ginned, in fact by 461 bales. According to a report of F. W. Hobbs, special agent for the Bureau of the Census, 98.3 bales of cotton were ginned in the county from the crop of 1946 prior to March 1. This compares with 1,444 bales ginned from the 1945 crop at the same time last year.

PALM SUNDAY TWO MASSES IN EDENTON CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Blessing and Distribution of Palm will start Sunday, March 31, at 11 A. M., followed immediately by the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the first mass being celebrated at 8 A. M., each including reading in Latin and

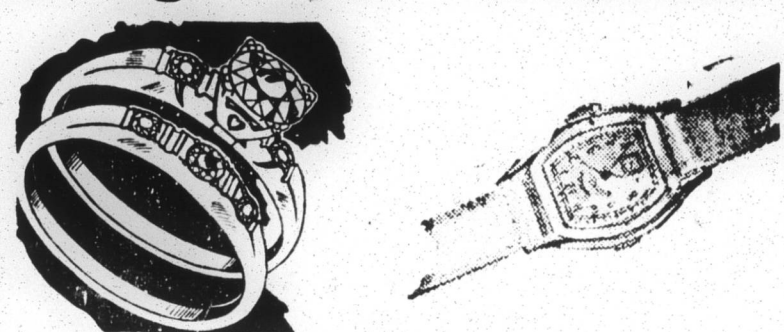
English of Passion of Our Lord according to St. Matthew, Holy Communion, the confessions beginning half hour, ending five minutes before each service in St. Ann's Catholic Church, Edenton, stated Father F. J. McCourt, rector, who invites everybody to all services.

Week mornings: Mass, Communion and Rosary. Friday at 8 P. M., Rosary, Stations of the Cross, benediction.

Well—
Rastus—Yo' ain't yo-self no more?
Sick or sumpin'?
Mose—Got insomnia. Keep wakin' up every few days.

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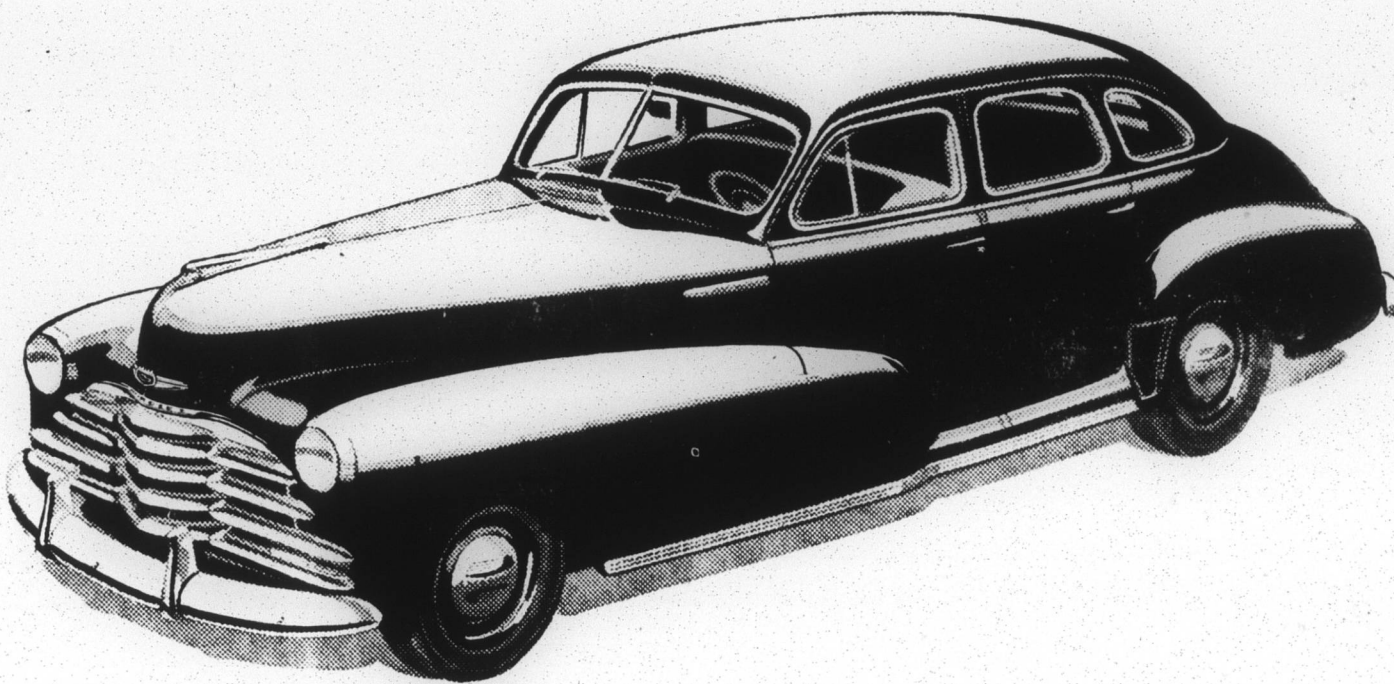
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