

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Eleven and a half weeks in Raleigh have been enough to make legislators think seriously of winding up the session; some have made the point on the floor. The wave of local bills introduced this week probably means the members want to be sure their local bills are not lost in the last-minute scramble following approval of the revenue and appropriations bills, measures that may reach the floor shortly. Despite these developments, the presiding officers have not yet appointed calendar committees, the usual signal of anticipated adjournment.

Appropriations and Taxation
Revenue Department information released by the Governor on Friday indicates that tax collections in the current fiscal year will exceed by some \$10 million the December estimates used by the Advisory Budget Commission in projecting collections available for spending in the next biennium. With an anticipated General Fund surplus of \$20 million at the end of the current biennium, and assuming the current estimate of a \$10 million collection excess holds good for the next 2 years, the General Assembly may have found about \$40 million to apply against the requests for some \$80 million more than the Advisory Budget Commission originally recommended. Even though the joint finance committee has approved no material changes in the state's tax structure, this prophecy of more money makes it likely that the appropriations subcommittee's recommendations to be turned over to the full committee on Tuesday will be substantially in excess of the figures with which they started work.

Administration of Justice
The Judicial Council, the permanent agency studying improvement of the administration of justice, submitted 25 bills to this General Assembly; to date 9 have passed, 9 have been killed, and 7 remain in committee. Proposals on judicial organization, such as those transferring (pursuant to the recent constitutional amendment) from the governor to the chief justice the duty of assigning superior court judges, have met general approval indeed the Assembly may go farther by setting up 3 court divisions and providing more regular judges for the more populous districts, a step the Council opposes until the chief justice has had a chance to ease dockets through more careful assignment. On the other hand, legislators are much more conservative in their approach to procedural changes. They have disapproved 2 bills to permit juries to take exhibits and written instructions into the jury room, one which would bar bystanders in all cases involving sex crimes, and 5 more which would have simplified civil and criminal procedure. Still to be approved is the more essential of 2 measures offered to make sure that condemned prisoners will not be executed while an appeal is in process. Bills left in committee include HB 77, opening all court records to public inspection except those dealing with adoption and juvenile court proceedings, HB 82,

permitting the governor's appointee to a judicial vacancy to remain in office until the next general election held over 30 days after the vacancy occurs, and HB 87, permitting condemned criminals to assert an alleged denial of constitutional rights in the courts.

Race Track Betting
Opponents of pari-mutuel betting at dog tracks in Carteret and Currituck counties made it plain at a public hearing on Tuesday that they do not consider race track gambling a matter for local legislation. A large delegation appearing to support bills outlawing pari-mutuel betting in this state told the House propositions and grievances committee that nation-wide syndicates control North Carolina tracks and receive most of the profits. Paralleling the argument for a state-wide liquor referendum, race track opponents contended there should be a consistent state policy on gambling. Next Tuesday the same committee will hear proponents of pari-mutuel betting.

Small Loans and Insurance
Working from information furnished the legislature by the Banking Commissioner, Senators Stoney and Lar-kins have proposed that a commission be established to study the need for accident and health insurance rate regulation with special emphasis on policies purchased in conjunction with small loans. As an alternative, Senator Stoney introduced a bill which would immediately give the Commissioner of Insurance authority to regulate accident and health policy rates. Bankers and insurance men attending a hearing on Thursday were confronted with statements that excessive rates are being charged on policies sold to secure loans and heard the Banking Commissioner assert that a 2-year delay in dealing with the matter would cost borrowers \$5 million. A subcommittee has been assigned the task of recommending a solution.

Roads and Automobiles
Another motor vehicle inspection bill was introduced in the House on Friday just as the Senate received unfavorable reports on 2 similar proposals. The new bill's fate seemed predetermined. The Senate has passed the turnpike bill and has approved a bill to prohibit persons under 15 from operating farm machinery on (Continued on Page Nine)

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MERRY HILL, N. C.

Mrs. Annie Davenport Dies After Brief Illness

Mrs. Annie M. Davenport, 49, died Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock in Albemarle Hospital, Elizabeth City, following an illness of five days. Deceased was a native of Virginia, but lived in the Yeopim section for about 10 years.

Surviving are her husband, Fred Lee Davenport; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lee Archer, of Myrtle, Va.; one son, Jesse Robert Gay, at home; one daughter, Mrs. John L. Winslow of Hertford; two brothers, Leland Archer of Myrtle, Va., and Edwin Archer of Murfreesboro, N. C., and four sisters, Mrs. C. A. Smith of London Bridge, Va., Mrs. Oscar Byrum and Mrs. Willie Byrum, Jr., of Suffolk, Va., and Mrs. N. B. Little of Newport-News, Va.

Funeral services were held at Cypress Chapel Baptist Church Friday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock with W. J. Berryman officiating. Burial was in the Church cemetery.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd E. Griffin announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Mary Walters Griffin, to Clyde A. Douglas II, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Birch Douglas of Raleigh. The wedding is scheduled to take place in June.

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TAYLOR THEATRE

Week Day Shows Continuous From 3:30
Saturday Continuous From 1:30
Sunday 2:15, 4:15 and 9:15

Thursday and Friday, March 29-30—
Return Engagement
Joel McCrea and Ellen Drew in
"STARS IN MY CROWN"

Saturday, March 31—
Allan Lane in
"COVERED WAGON TRAIL"

Sunday and Monday, April 1-2—
Jeff Chandler and Debra Paget in
"BIRD OF PARADISE"
Filmed in the South Seas in beautiful Technicolor

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 3-4—
Audie Murphy and Marguerite Chapman in
"KANSAS RAIDERS"
also
"THE MGM STORY"

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EDENTON, N. C.
Friday and Saturday, March 30-31—
Humphrey Bogart and Gloria Grahame in
"IN A LONELY PLACE"

Hi-Way 17 Drive-In Theatre

Two Shows Each Night
In-Car Speakers
Modern Rest Rooms. Snack Bar
Admission 40c
Children Under 12 Free In Cars

Opening Sunday, April 1, at dusk
Claudette Colbert and Patrick Knowles in
"THREE CAME HOME"

Monday and Tuesday, April 2-3—
Bing Crosby and Coleen Gray in
"RIDING HIGH"

Wednesday and Thursday, April 4-5—
Yvonne De Carlo and Scott Brady in
"GAL WHO TOOK THE WEST"

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All Ladies' Spring Suits

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| One Rack Ladies' Dresses | \$3.98 |
| Nylon Hose, 51 Gauge, 15 Denier. First Quality | 97c |
| Nylon Hose, 51 Gauge, 15 Denier. Irregulars | 79c |
| Ladies' Rayon Panties During This Sale | 25c |
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