

## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

**NOTE:** This is the eleventh of a series of weekly summaries prepared by the legislative staff of the Institute of Government on the work of the North Carolina General Assembly of 1953. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.

Although the actual volume of work accomplished this week fell far below normal for the closing weeks of a legislative session, the one issue met and solved may make it possible to step up the pace.

Earlier this week capitol newsmen, relying on existing law to the effect that committee hearings on the budget must be in open session, clashed with the appropriations subcommittee which had voted to hold closed sessions to speed up consideration of controversial budget items. On two occasions meetings were adjourned without transacting any business when newsmen refused to leave, and on Wednesday afternoon it appeared that an impasse had been reached. Things were brought up to a head on Thursday with the introduction in both houses of a bill to permit the joint appropriations committee or any subcommittee thereof to hold sessions at which only committee or subcommittee members and those designated by them might attend. Under suspension of rules and after heated debate, the measure passed both houses by substantial margins. The immediate effect of the measure will be to expedite the work of the subcommittee; the ultimate effect on legislative methods and public reaction is a question which legislators and observers are pondering.

### Appropriations and Finance

In its last open meeting before its clash with the press, the appropriations subcommittee on Monday tentatively approved over \$1 million above recommendations of the Advisory Budget Commission for the University of North Carolina. As full scale meetings are resumed, its deliberations will be affected by possible downward revision of anticipated revenues. In a report based on partial income tax returns, the Commissioner of Revenue on Thursday predicted that income tax revenues will be \$3 million less than estimated by the Advisory Budget Commission.

On Monday night bills proposing bond issues were introduced to implement Governor Umstead's permanent improvement program outlined in his budget message. At an election sometime this year, the people would vote on \$50 million for school facilities and \$22 million for mental hospitals. Bond proceeds for schools would be allocated \$100,000 to each county and \$15 million on a per capita basis in proportion to 1951-52 average daily memberships (but no county is to receive more than "valid need" as determined by State Board of Education), and \$25 million by State Board according to need formula approved by Governor. Thirteen million dollars would be authorized by the General Assembly for state institutions, but there is no provision for \$2 million requested by the Governor in his budget message for construction of hospitals.

### Propositions and Grievances

The Senate committee with this traditional name has been handed two sensitive issues on which agreement is not likely to be reached. With an eye on Carteret and Currituck counties and an ear for charges of out-of-state gambling interests in dog tracks, SB 364 would make it a statewide misdemeanor to operate or become a patron of any betting system or device. No odds have been quoted on the bill's chances for success. And local option on beer and wine for

rate regulation continue to demand legislative attention: After a stormy hearing, SB 345, which would permit the Utilities Commission to deal directly with freight rate experts (at present only licensed attorneys may practice before the Commission), was reported out to the Senate almost intact; the public hearing on the proposed new formula for setting utility rates produced such conflicting, legislative and technical testimony that still further hearings are in the offing—

### Education

A public hearing on the subcommittee proposal to solve the troublesome school consolidation problem has been scheduled for next Wednesday by the House Education Committee. The omnibus bill appointing members of county education boards throughout the state was introduced on Wednesday, as was HB 983, designed to permit such boards to take title to activity school buses and to waive governmental immunity, to the extent of insurance coverage, for damage caused by such buses while on authorized trips. After a brief but sharp floor debate on Tuesday, the House passed HB 319 to clarify authority for grand jury inspection of public school buildings once each six months on direction of a superior court judge. As it reached the Senate, the bill applied to only 49 counties.

### Local Government

Legislation important to cities is definitely in the news. House Judiciary 1 has reported favorably HB 850 which would make ownership of a motor vehicle parked in violation of a statutory or municipal parking regulation prima facie evidence that the owner so parked it. Proponents told legislators on Tuesday that the survival of downtown business parking regulation. House Roads and Highway Safety has approved HB 922, which would permit towns below 5,000 population to contract with the Highway Commission to perform street construction and maintenance work. While the smaller towns want this state help, they are protesting the provision which would permit withdrawal from the agreement with the commission only through a special legislative act.

Delegation of power to county commissioners to fix salaries of employees finally received House approval on Friday as applicable to 39 counties, of which ten have specified that the commissioners would have no authority over the salaries of elective officials. After a brisk floor fight, the House also passed on second reading a measure authorizing county commissioners to levy a special tax for aid to the permanently and totally disabled.

### Constitutional Amendments

This week saw floor action on four proposed constitutional amendments. The Senate passed SB 339, which would give the legislature the right to provide for the retirement of Supreme Court justices and for their recall to service when current justices are unable to perform their duties. In the other wing of the capitol, the House passed one bill which would take from the Governor the power to grant paroles and vest it in the newly created three-man Paroles Commission after July 1, 1955. This would not affect the Governor's reprieve and pardon authority. Politically, perhaps the most significant action was the favorable report given HB 18, which would insure that no county could have more than one senator as the result of state senatorial redistricting. Also approved by committee was the measure putting rotation of superior court judges within the discretion of the General Assembly. In the Senate, bills were introduced from four months to 30 days the residence requirements for voting in a given precinct, and to eliminate elections to fill short term vacancies in state elective offices.

### Miscellaneous

Problems inherent in public utility

afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. The Rev. Lee A. Phillips, pastor of the Center Hill Baptist Church, officiated with interment made in the family cemetery.

## Local Negro Group At State Meeting

The eleventh annual State Council meeting of Negro Home Demonstration Clubs was held Wednesday, March 26, at the Memorial Auditorium, Raleigh, with Mrs. Lena Brindle, State Council President, presiding.

The theme of the meeting was, "Lifting As We Climb." A panel discussion was held with the following participants: Community Organization, Mr. Wayne Corpening; Health, Miss Charlotte Rickman; Home-making, Mrs. Ella J. Williams; Citizenship, Mr. John W. Goodman; Education, Mrs. Ruth L. Woodson; Spiritual Growth, Rev. Moses N. DeLaney.

The afternoon session was held at 1:45 with Mrs. Naomi B. Wilson, State Council vice president, presiding. Reports of activities of the County Councils were given by the district presidents.

Those who attended the meeting from Chowan County were: Mrs. O. S. Charlton, home agent; J. B. Small, Farm Agent; Mrs. Cora Boyce, president of County Council; Mrs. Bessie Holley, Mrs. Lula Welch, Mrs. Mattie Jordan, Mrs. Beatrice Gilliam, Mrs. Vaola Rountree, Mrs. Leora Spivey, Mrs. Roxanna Simpson, Mrs. C. P. White, Mrs. Mary Drew, Mrs. Pearl Newby, and Mrs. L. L. Harrison.

## GOOD FRIDAY, EASTER SUNDAY EDENTON CATHOLIC SERVICES

April 3, Good Friday, 2:45 P. M., to 3:15, the Devotions of the Seven Last Words, Meditation on "The Crucifixion" will be held in St. Ann's Catholic Church, Edenton, the services followed by confessions, stated Father F. J. McCourt, pastor, who invites everybody to all services.

At 8 P. M., the Rosary will be recited in honor of Our Lady of Fatima for speediest possible conversion of Russia, universal and everlasting peace, an appropriate sermon preached by Father James B. Martin, Naval Military Catholic Chaplain at Edenton Air Station, Stations of the Cross, confessions heard by Father Martin.

Holy Saturday, April 4, confessions 4 P. M., to 6, 7 to 9:30 P. M.

Easter Sunday, April 5, 8 A. M., high mass will be sung (Missa Cantata de Angelis), including offertory hymn "Panis Angelicus", sermon on "Christ's Resurrection Proves Catholic Church's Founder's Divinity", Holy Communion, followed by Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, with a second mass there at 11 A. M. (low mass), including sermon, Holy Communion, followed by Rosary for Peace, with confessions 7 to 7:55 and 10 to 10:55 A. M.

## Funeral Held For Miss Ada ("Telie") Byrum

Miss Ada C. (Telie) Byrum, 69, died Tuesday morning at 2 o'clock in Chowan Hospital. Miss Byrum, a native of Chowan County, was found unconscious Monday morning in the yard of her home in the Cisco section. She was a member of the Center Hill Baptist Church.

Surviving is a sister, Mrs. Annie Boyce of Edenton.

Funeral services were held at the Willford Funeral Home Wednesday

## Housework Easy Without Nagging Backache

When kidney function slows down, many folks complain of nagging backache, loss of pep and energy, headaches and dizziness. Don't suffer longer with these discomforts if reduced kidney function is getting you down—due to such common causes as stress and strain, over-exertion or exposure to cold. Minor bladder irritations due to cold, dampness or wrong diet may cause getting up nights or frequent passages.

Don't neglect your kidneys if these conditions bother you. Try Doan's Pills—a mild diuretic. Used successfully by millions for over 50 years. While often otherwise caused, it's amazing how many times Doan's give happy relief from these discomforts—help the 16 miles of kidney tubes and filters flush out waste. Get Doan's Pills today!

## DOAN'S PILLS

## Dorothy Reid Garrett Weds H. S. Ziegler, Jr.

The marriage of Dorothy Reid Garrett and Heywood Ziegler, Jr., took place Saturday evening, March 28 at 8 o'clock at the home of the Rev. R. L. Jerome, 301 Church Street, Elizabeth City. The double ring ceremony was performed.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William S. Reid of Princess Ann, Va. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Heywood S. Ziegler. Immediately after the ceremony the couple left for a short wedding trip and upon their return, will reside in Edenton.

## Bunny Festival Will Be Held On April 6th

## Unique Affair Sponsored By Brown-Carver Library

Brown-Carver Library will stage a unique observance of Easter Monday on April 6, when it will hold a bunny festival.

In connection with the festival a parade will be held at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, starting at the library at the corner of Gale and Oakum Streets. The parade will proceed to the playground, where many activities will take place. The procession will be

by the Colored High School Band, followed by many colorful floats.

Another feature in the parade will be the four feet beauties, a fashion of beautiful dressed pets.

There will be Peter Rabbit, Peter Cotton Tail, Molly Cotton Tail, and the famous clowns.

## MISSIONARY SOCIETY WILL MEET MONDAY AFTERNOON

The Woman's Missionary Society of the Baptist Church will meet Monday afternoon, April 6, at 4 o'clock at the church. Mrs. C. W. Overman, president of the society, especially urges all members to attend.

Every sincere wish and prayer for goodness, every earnest attempt to fulfill difficult duty, is sure to help on our spiritual progress.

—James Freeman Clarke.

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