

Washington—The Senate passed the excise tax reduction bill last week including the Douglas amendment which I co-sponsored to reduce the excise tax on electric, oil and gas household appliances from ten per cent to five per cent. Another amendment which I co-sponsored to reduce the excise tax on automobiles and parts from ten per cent to seven per cent was defeated.

**EXCISE TAX**

An excise tax has the effect of slowing down consumer buying. A tax of this nature is levied during periods of inflation when the buying pressures are present. The reason I favored the reduction in these excise taxes on some things and the complete elimination in other instances is that I want to see consumer buying stimulated. I think we must sell more consumer goods and keep our factories running to give employment.

**CHAVEZ VOTE**

Every member of the Democratic party in the Senate was present and voted for Senator Chavez last week. The Majority party wanted to declare his Senate seat vacant, not because of anything he had done, but because of certain election methods in his state. I have been told by a number of Senators who have been around Washington for a long time that it was the first time all were present in many years. No person brought any charges against Senator Chavez. It was rather the question of the way the election was held in November of 1952. The fight to declare the seat vacant fell apart when it was suggested that every person who was elected by that ballot was elected under the same circumstances and it would be unfair to pick on Senator Chavez. I voted to support Senator Chavez.

**AZALEA FESTIVAL**

The Azalea Festival in Wilmington has developed into one of the great spectacles of its type in the country. It is bringing a lot of favorable publicity to North Carolina. I was able to get out of Washington to attend the event as the Senate was in recess.

**STATEHOOD**

After spending two days last week on the Chavez debate and another two days on the excise tax bill, the Senate resumes debate on Hawaii-Alaska Statehood. While there has been no definite date set to try to get a vote on this measure, the leadership is expected to press for completion of debate soon.

**INVESTIGATIONS**

I am not a member of the McCarthy Subcommittee on Investigations. Some Tar Heels have mixed up my membership on the Government Operations Committee with the Subcommittee on Investigations. I am interested, just like you, to see these investigations are put on a higher plane, not competing for headlines. I want to learn the facts in the Army-McCarthy controversy. We are all entitled to get the facts and nothing should be withheld from the public. I have advocated on a number of occasions that one-man investigations be halted by the adoption of a few simple and effective rules.

**DUTIES**

Each U. S. Senator is a member of at least two standing committees. Seniority is determined by the length of service in the Senate. Every Senator begins at the bottom. Committee meetings are held, usually in the mornings, to study legislation, hold hearings, and conduct investigations. All bills and resolutions are referred to some committee for study. A large amount of routine business is conducted by the Senate which does not require the constant attendance of the individual Senators.

**THIS-AND-THAT**

In the old hall of the House in the Capitol is the famous Statuary Hall in which are statues of the famous people the several States have selected (one from each State). Zeb V. Vance was so honored by North Carolina. . . We get a lot of unusual letters each week, and a number of them come from other states. Recently we got a letter from a gentleman in Tennessee who wanted a bill passed to make the railroads widen their tracks by two feet.

**FREE WILL BAPTIST MEETING**

The Rev. R. C. Ambrose, Free Will Baptist minister, will conduct a meeting Friday night, April 2, at 8 o'clock at the home of J. F. Arnold, 204 East Eden Street. Everyone is invited to attend.

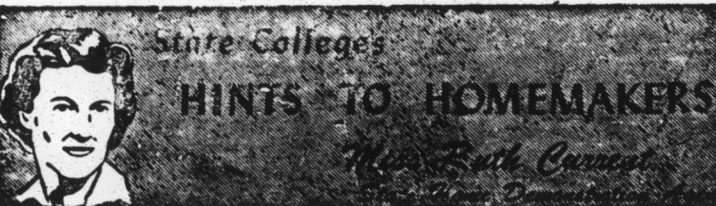
**35,334 LICENSES APPROVED**

Driver license examiners of the Department of Motor Vehicles approved 35,334 applications for permits in February and collected \$67,018.50 in fees.

They turned down 6,752 applicants largely because of their failure to pass the rules of the road test.



**INDIAN BRAVE?**—White man take-um Indian scalp. Sitting courageously in a barber chair at Fort Meade, Md., is Navajo Indian Private Zhabay Horses Son, of Martins Ferry, Ohio. He volunteered to receive his first hair cut in 12 and one-half years.



**Home Safety Hints for Youngest Age Group**—The normal, average child of pre-school age, is an active, vigorous bundle of untiring curiosity, wanting to touch and handle everything within reach, and trying to put everything small enough into his mouth. During this period of development, matches, cigarettes, marbles, pins, money and similar objects should be out of his reach. Store detergents, poisons, cleaning fluids should also be out of his reach.

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Form the habit of holding onto the rail when going up and down stairs in the house: teach him as soon as he can to understand the dangers of playing with fire.

**The Oldest Age Group Needs Protection Too**—Their protection should be unobtrusive, thoughtful, loving consideration. If living by themselves, they must learn to ease up, slow up, and plan their environment—furnishings, household equipment, gardening supplies—to be free of hazards. Falls and burns are the major types of accidents for the older person, so: (1) Motor Cop (catching up with speeder and lady passenger)—Say, "Out you mean by driving at 60?" (2) Motorist—Good heavens! I thought you were the lady's husband.

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