

## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

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 1955. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.

Spring arrived this week, and talk of adjournment was heard in the House. Legislators did not seriously contemplate getting away from Raleigh for several more weeks at best, but with encouraging revenue estimates, and an Appropriations subcommittee hard at work, there is room for optimism. A party given on Tuesday by legislative employees for members of the General Assembly was the social event of the week. First events were recalled by several introductions this week. A bill to legalize cap pistol caps, beaten down in previous legislatures, as a foot in the door attempt to break down the fireworks ban, passed the Senate. Refusal of the Banking Commission to charter new banks in certain instances has brought in a House bill which would liberalize the laws on setting up new banks and change the composition of the Banking Commission. A bill to reduce barley tobacco warehouse charges recalls the unsuccessful 1953 attempt to lower bright leaf warehouse commissions.

**Taxes**  
The big news of the week was good news, both to taxpayers and to hard pressed legislators. Estimates of revenues for this fiscal year and the 1955-57 biennium were boosted almost \$15 million. Using this estimate, legislators could reduce new tax needs from \$52 million to \$37 million. On Friday afternoon, at a special meeting of the Finance Committee, Rep. Rodman and Sen. Woodson presented a list of 17 proposals which would bring in an estimated \$19,948,000 in new revenue for the next biennium. Chaffed from this list were the controversial tobacco and soft drink taxes recommended by the Governor and the Advisory Budget Commission. Members urged to take the list with them, check with the folk back home over the weekend, and come back ready to decide on specific items. Mr. Rodman suggested looking to ward May 1st as the date of final adjournment. The full list with estimated new revenues from each for the biennium is as follows: (1) rewrite sales and use tax articles to clarify administration and delete present conflicts and inequities (\$6,000,000); (2) retain present 8 1/2 cent dispensary tax (\$250,000); (3) increase commission fees of notaries public and JP's (\$893,000); (4) tax cooperative associations as proposed by SB 235 (\$200,000); (5) increase annual license fee on instrument agents from \$2.50 to \$5 (\$260,000); (6) fix rate on fortified wines at 80¢ per gal. (\$800,000); (7) increase liquor tax from 8 1/2% to 11% (\$3,000,000); (8) eliminate fleet owner provision (\$900,000); (9) increase premiums tax on domestic insurance companies (\$1,500,000); (10) repeal sales tax single article limitation \$2,000,000; (11) levy 3 1/2% gross receipts tax on hotels and motels (\$2,000,000); (12) reduce sales tax on motor vehicles to 1% with no exemptions (\$4,000,000); (13) levy 3 1/2% tax on gross advertising receipts of newspapers, radio, and television stations (\$2,000,000); (14) eliminate sales tax exemption on building materials (\$6,000,000); (15) repeal small sales tax on manu-

facturing machinery and farm equipment, and levy 3 1/2% sales tax on parts and accessories (\$4,000,000); (16) levy 1 1/2% sales tax on fertilizer, seeds, feeds, and insecticides (\$4,000,000); and (17) levy 1/2% of 1% tax on real estate transfers (\$3,000,000).

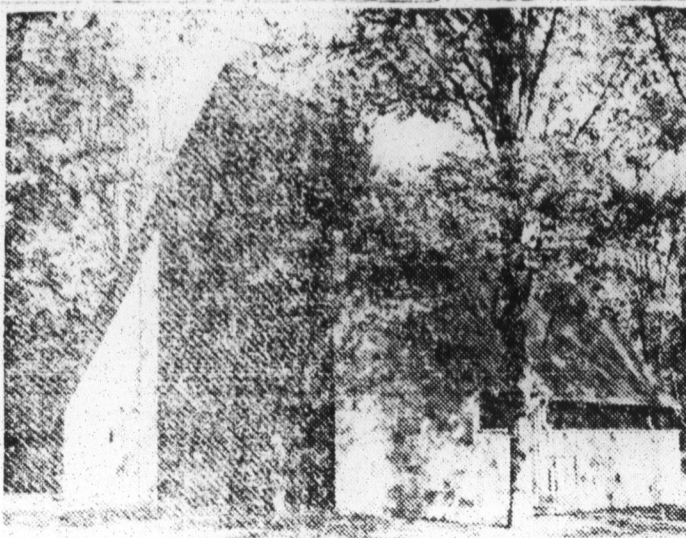
**Education**  
One of the most important bills of this General Assembly was passed in the Senate on Thursday and sent to the House, where it was immediately placed on the calendar. This bill would place in the hands of city and county boards of education full responsibility and authority over enrollment and assignment of children in public schools and on school buses. The omnibus education bill, which appoints education board members for 91 counties, passed the House. The House Education committee reported favorably a committee substitute for the bill creating a State Board of Higher Education. In addition to minor changes in the original bill, the substitute provides that the Board of Higher Education will be vested with all higher education powers and functions now in the State Board of Education, except for necessary collaboration between the State Board of Education and institutions of higher education in teacher training and certification.

**Motor Vehicles**  
The House on Tuesday debated, amended, and then defeated the anti-whiskey bill by a 74 to 35 vote. Also killed during the week were bills to give legislators special license plates; to provide for different colored drivers' licenses to indicate driving records; to make non-contentious pleas equivalent to pleas of guilty for license suspension purposes; and to establish presumptions of sobriety and intoxication based on chemical tests. A new Senate bill would raise the personal injury limits under the required financial responsibility coverage from \$5,000 and \$10,000 to \$10,000 and \$20,000.

**Family Law**  
Children and married women, favorite subjects of legislation, received considerable attention this week. A bill was introduced to accelerate determination of non-support cases by requiring that they be given priority on court dockets. Another introduction would change the divorce statutes to provide that a prior alimony award will terminate if the wife subsequently receives an absolute divorce on any grounds other than the adultery of the husband. A bill providing that an alimony judgment calling for future installments (as opposed to a lump sum payment) does not create a lien against the husband's realty upon docketing was defeated in the House, as was a measure authorizing the State Board of Public Welfare to license day care facilities providing custodial care for children. A new bill would allow the defendant in a bastardy action to appeal an adverse determination of paternity even though he was acquitted of non-support.

**Miscellaneous**  
Again this session, a bill proposes a preferential presidential primary, the results to be advisory only, rather than binding on convention delegates. And that long-standing fight, Senate and House reapportionment, was in the news again. First, the Senate Commission made its report, recommending more study and no action at this time. Next came a bill which would set up a 9-member commission to report in 1957 to study the entire theory of bicameral representation and the possibility of

automatic reapportionment by a non-legislative agency. A bill to set up a 1960 deadline on the cleanup of the Haw River, described by Senator Scott of Alamance as an open sewer, has been received in the House following its passage in the Senate. The bill refashioning the Eastern and Western judicial divisions into four new divisions was ratified this week. Two-thirds retirement pay for superior court solicitors was reported unfavorably in the Senate. (The solicitors remain under the Teachers and State Employees Retirement System.) With the need for special judges lessened by the increase in the number of judicial districts and regular judges, identical bills introduced in the House and Senate would reduce the authorized number of special judges from twelve to four. A conference's report on the milk bill (substantially approving it as passed by the House) was adopted by the Senate Thursday.



St. George's Episcopal Church in Durham, N. H., which won for its architect first prize in the awards annually conferred by the International Church Architectural Guild of America.

### Weekly Devotional Column

By JAMES MacKENZIE

While walking through Pensacola Circle the other day I noticed with interest that several blades of grass had actually managed to poke their way up through the asphalt pavement. At first it occurred to me that here is a remarkable demonstration of the God given will to live, and of the constant struggle for existence which is so much a part of all life. How mighty is man, with dominion over all the earth, but powerless to conquer a few blades of grass. We had run all sorts of machinery over that grass, poured hot asphalt upon it, and packed the asphalt down. Yet, with an instinct known only to God, that grass had pushed through the asphalt in a life-or-death struggle to find the sun—and now grows the grass, triumphant and invincible in the streets of Edenton!

Then there came to me the words of Jesus with reference to His Crucifixion and Resurrection: "Except a corn of wheat fall to the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit" (John 12:24). Is there not a beautiful illustration of the Resurrection? Oh, in vain did they place the dead body of our Saviour in the tomb; in vain did they seal the entrance; and in vain did they set a watch; Did man, who even yet cannot imprison a single blade of grass, expect so to contain the eternal Son of God? Were death and hell actually deceived in thinking they had gained the victory over Him who is the Resurrection and the Life? And when you get right down to it, does Satan, who has power only to kill, have any reason to hope for victory over God who has power to give life to those who are dead?

It takes no great power to bring death out of life. Man can kill without great effort, and it was man who put the Saviour to death.

But only God can give life, and how is this brought to pass? When Jesus was declared to be the Son of God by His resurrection, Christ, trusting Him implicitly for salvation from the dead, the Holy Spirit places that man into the body of Christ; as Christ died upon the cross, man's sinful nature dies; he is born again. The life that man has become alive, is born into the family of God but life unto Satan. In the day of God, that is what Paul meant when he said, "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in and through me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20). And that is what Jesus means when He said, "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die" (John 11:25-26).

What must you do to be born again? Simply trust Him as your Saviour, receive Him, and enthroned Him as your Lord. "For as many as received Him, to them gave He power (authority) to become the Sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (John 1:12).

### Exposed

"Why are you fretting about, Oscar?" asked the teacher sternly. Oscar didn't answer, but the class tattle-tale did. "He's got a pin, teacher," he cried.

"Take it away from him and bring it here," commanded the teacher.

A little later Oscar was called on to read. He remained sitting. "Stand up," said the teacher sharply.

Oscar got red, but didn't budge. "I can't, teacher," he gulped. "I've had enough of this foolishness," exclaimed the teacher. "Why can't you stand up?"

Oscar fidgeted some more and blurted out: "Because that pin you took away from me held my pants up."

### CARD OF THANKS

I would like to express my most sincere appreciation to my many friends who sent cards, or flowers, or visited me during my recent illness.

Mrs. Rufus Carraway.

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## Notice Of Town Election

A Resolution by the Board of Councilmen of the Town of Edenton calling a Regular Election for the purpose of electing a Mayor and six members of the Town Council, a Treasurer and three members of the Board of Public Works.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Councilmen of the Town of Edenton that, in accordance with the General Laws of the State of North Carolina, the Board of Councilmen hereby calls for an election to be held in the Town of Edenton on Tuesday, May 3, 1955, the same being the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May, the date established by the law for said election. Said election shall be conducted for the purpose of electing a Mayor and six Councilmen, one Councilman to be elected from each ward of the town and two to be elected by the town at large, a Treasurer, and three members of the Board of Public Works by the voters of the town. The Mayor, each Councilman, the Treasurer and each member of the Board of Public Works shall be elected to hold office for a term of two years, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the polling places shall be as follows and that the following are hereby appointed Registrars and Judges of said election:

FIRST WARD: Registrar, Mrs. Sadie Hoskins, 310 South Mosley Street. Judges of Election, J. Frank White, Sr., and C. O. Letcher. Polling Place, Municipal Building.

SECOND WARD: Registrar, Mrs. Ruth Stokley, 203 South Oakum Street. Judges of Election, G. E. Cullipher and K. M. Phillips. Polling Place, Building at corner of Oakum and East Queen Streets, formerly occupied by Spruill's Soda Shop.

THIRD WARD: Registrar, Mrs. J. B. Harrison, 200 North Granville Street. Judges of Election, J. Frank Miller and Mrs. S. S. Campen. Polling Place, Electric and Water Plant on West Freemason Street.

FOURTH WARD: Registrar, Mrs. W. W. Porter, 908 North Broad Street. Judges of Election, W. L. Langdale and Mrs. James E. Cozens. Polling Place, National Guard Armory on North Broad Street.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all persons eligible to vote in the Town of Edenton, as defined by general law, shall be eligible to register and vote in the election herein called.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a new registration of all voters desiring to vote in municipal elections held in the Town of Edenton is hereby ordered by the Board of Councilmen under the authority of the General Statutes, Section 160-34. In order to be eligible to vote in the municipal election to be held on the 3rd day of May 1955, all qualified electors residing within the Town of Edenton are required to register in the new registration books of the Town of Edenton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the registration books shall be opened for registration on the 9th day of April, 1955, and closed at sunset on the 23rd day of April, 1955. Each day except Sunday during the registration period the registration books shall remain open for registration until sunset at the home of the registrar and each Saturday during registration the books shall be open from 9:00 A. M. to sunset at the polling place.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Saturday, April 23, 1955, shall be designated as Challenge Day, and that any person desiring to challenge any name included in said registration books shall on this day advise the Registrar and Judges of the fact. The Registrar and Judges shall thereupon set a date and time for the hearing of the challenge, but said date shall be prior to Monday, May 2, 1955.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of Edenton and a copy posted in each ward.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all candidates for any of the offices above named shall notify the Town Clerk on or before the 22nd day of April, 1955, in order that their names may be printed upon the ballots.

The foregoing resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board of Councilmen of the Town of Edenton.

This the 8th day of March, 1955.

Attest:  
ERNEST J. WARD, JR., Clerk.

LEROY H. HASKETT, Mayor.

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