

Weekly Legislative Summary

This is one in 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 1961. It is confined to resolutions of matters of general interest and major importance.

Appropriations and Finance

A long-drawn-out process of item-by-item study of the Administration's school budget suddenly collapsed into a blanket endorsement Thursday, as the Appropriations Subcom abruptly voted to approve the Sanford program. Before the motion was made, the subcommittee had deleted provisions granting two extra days' pay to teachers and a \$5 per month increase for school bus drivers; the subcommittee also cut a recommended increase for bus mechanics from 15% to 3%. The total of the reductions amounted to \$3.8 million. The action of the subcommittee undoubtedly shortens the time which will elapse before the whole budget problem comes before the General Assembly for final action. Still before the subcommittees are the budgets for higher education, welfare, and permanent improvements.

The House passed HB 23, increasing legislative subsistence payments to a flat \$12 per day after amending the bill to increase to \$12 the maximum subsistence allowance for members of state boards and commissions generally. The amendment was an attempt to meet the limitation imposed by Article II, Section 28 of the State Constitution, which prohibits legislative allowance in excess of that allowed to state boards and commissions.

Administration forces won another battle Thursday when the Senate Finance Committee voted to refer tax measures to a 10-member subcommittee. This subcommittee and the House subcommittee, which was authorized last week, will probably be appointed early next week. Present plans are apparently for the two subcommittees to meet separately. A new tax bill, SB 263, by Sen. Currie would increase the sales tax to 4% on the present base. The bill differs from HB 31p, introduced March 28, only in the details of the bracket system of collection. Introduction of the bill places the 4% proposal before the Senate subcommittee.

Minimum Wage

HB 234, which extends the coverage of the 75c minimum wage law to establishments employing three or more persons, was seriously but not necessarily mortally wounded by the House Committee on Manufacturers and Labor. By a 16-9 vote the committee voted to give the bill an unfavorable report; this report normally would place the bill on the unfavorable calendar where it would die, without further action unless it was removed from that calendar by a 2/3 vote of the House. Proponents rescued the bill from this virtually certain

death by means of a minority report—a parliamentary device employed when supporters of a bill feel that the whole body is likely to have a more favorable attitude toward the bill than does the committee. Under the rules when an unfavorable report is accompanied by a minority report—favorable to the bill—the question when the report is acted upon is "Shall the minority report be adopted?" If a simple majority vote "aye," the bill is placed on the regular calendar for routine consideration. To avoid time-consuming and useless tactics by die-hard members, the rules require that a minority report must be signed by at least 1/4 of the members of the committee who voted on the bill; this number was obtained with some difficulty by sponsors of HB 234. While this maneuver was taking place in the House, Sen. Burrow introduced SB 271 which would extend the coverage of the minimum wage law in the same way as would HB 234, and would, in addition make the law apply to concession attendants and cashiers in theaters. The other side of the minimum wage coin was represented by Rep. Newman who introduced HB 646 to repeal the minimum wage law in its entirety.

Legislation Representation

HB 601, introduced April 28 by Rep. Hardy and other eastern legislators, approaches the problem of Congressional redistricting by pitting Republican Charles R. Jonas against Democrat Basil Whitener in a district comprised of Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Burke, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Mitchell, Rutherford and Watauga counties. Mecklenburg, a Jonas stronghold, would be placed in a new 8th district embracing Anson, Lee, Mecklenburg, Moore, Richmond, Scotland and Union. Efforts to establish an east-west alliance to operate against the Piedmont in favor of some version of the Hardy proposal have been reported, with results still uncertain. Rumors continue to be heard concerning a proposal

to delegate the redistricting job to a special commission.

The Senate passed SB 143, to amend the Constitution to change the basis of senatorial districts from population to "related geographical, population and area interests," and to limit any one county to one senator. The bill was amended to require redistricting after each decennial census, rather than at the time the House reapportions its seats.

Motor Vehicles

HB 224, strengthening the point system for suspension or revocation of drivers' licenses, was amended to exclude offenses committed in other states, and in effect to remove a retroactive feature, and was passed by the House. SB 98, the motor vehicle inspection bill, is on the House calendar for Tuesday, as is SB 92, which deletes the provision that an appeal from the Commissioner's order suspending a license automatically suspends the operation of the Commissioner's order. SB 93, permitting suspension of a driver's license for commission within a 12-month period of two or more offenses of speeding, has passed the Senate and is in the House Committee on Roads and Highway Safety. HB 279, requiring automobile liability insurers to offer coverage which will allow an insured to protect himself against damage for which an uninsured motorist is legally responsible, was amended to extend the coverage to damage done by hit-and-run motorists, and was passed by the House Thursday; the extra coverage, which would be optional with the insured, is estimated to cost about \$5 per year.

Private Finance

The House Committee on Banks and Banking has approved a modification of the Braswell small loans bill; the amendment would limit to \$20 the finance charges of the first \$100 of a loan, with \$18 allowed on the second \$100, and \$12 on the third \$100. SB 250, rewrites the statutes governing real estate title insurance companies. SB 251 proposes a Mutual Trust Investment Company Act which would authorize five or more fiduciary companies in North Carolina to incorporate mutual trust investment companies. The companies would be regulated

and inspected by the Commissioner of Banks. SB 267 limits the right of members of savings and loan associations to inspect the records of the association other than those relating to the members' own accounts, and sets up rules governing mailing by the association of communications between members relating to matters to be considered at the annual association meeting. HB 608 makes it a misdemeanor for a lending institution to require a borrower to purchase insurance from a company, agent or broker designated by the lender. HB 647 regulates retail installment selling of everything from automobiles to zithers and authorizes finance charges of up to \$12 per \$100 per year on the first \$300, and \$7 per \$100 on the balance above \$1000; the Commissioner of Banks is empowered to administer the act.

Miscellaneous

HB 290, which would have allowed police officers to go beyond city limits in hot pursuit of an offender, was defeated on the Senate floor Wednesday. HB 567, making the state eligible to receive federal funds for aid to dependent children of unemployed fathers, passed the House Wednesday. Man's best friend was among friends in the Senate Friday as that body after stirring debate sent back to committee SB 258 which permits a person to kill a dog which kills cattle, hogs, goats or poultry, without incurring civil liability to the dog's owner; the debate indicated that at least some Senators do not feel that killing a chicken should be a capital offense, even for a dog.

Completes Course



ELVIN E. TOPPIN

Airman E. C. Toppin, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Toppin, Route 1, Edenton, has completed his initial course of Air Force basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas. He has been selected to attend the technical training course for aircraft control and warning operator at Keesler AFB, Miss.

Airman Toppin is a graduate of Chowan High School and majored in mathematics at East Carolina College. Basic airmen at Lackland are selected for specialized training at technical schools on the basis of their interests and aptitudes. They are reassigned to the school after five weeks of basic training. At the technical schools they are given additional military training along with the technical instructions. Upon completion of special technical training at an Air Force Technical Training Center, airmen are assigned to operational units of the USAF Aerospace Force.

The Air Force recruiter for this area is located in Ahoskie. He visits Room 201 at the Post Office in Elizabeth City, and will visit Edenton any time upon request.

Mr. and Mrs. Chet White and daughter, Marion, Mrs. H. G. Evans, Jr., and Joyce Evans spent the week-end at Farmville, Va., visiting Mr. and Mrs. White's daughter, Anna Raye, a

student at Longwood College and also attended the "May Day Festivities" on Saturday.

Mrs. J. P. Love and Mrs. Chet White were in Williamston Friday shopping.

Mrs. W. T. Davis and Mrs. Arthur Davis visited Mr. and Mrs. James Davis in Windsor Monday morning and also did some shopping.

Mrs. Rufus Baker and Mrs. Viola Cowan were in Windsor Friday on business.

Misses Vannie Mae and Frances Cowand spent Sunday in Norfolk as the guest of their sister, Mrs. Nettie Bartlett.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Winborne were the guests of her brother and family, Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Bowen of Churchland, Va., Sunday and also visited Mrs. Fred White and Mrs. Alden Deyoe of Harrellsville Sunday night. Mrs. Deyoe is from San Jose, California and has been spending several weeks with her mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Collie White of Elizabeth City spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Pierce.

Mrs. S. V. Cowand and Jerry Cowand spent Friday in Rocky Mount with Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Cowand.

Miss Nancy Pruden of Wilson spent Saturday night with Mr. and Mrs. B. G. Willis at Willis Landing.

Mrs. E. J. Pruden, Sr., returned to her home Friday morning, somewhat improved after being a patient in Bertie Memorial Hospital at Windsor for several days last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Williams and daughter, Lynn, Mrs. Archie Rhea of Ahoskie visited their mother, Mrs. Lloyd Cobb Sunday.

Harvey Williams of Norfolk, Va., spent the week-end at home with his wife, Mrs. Williams and children, Julie and Charles.

Nina Love spent the week-end at Nags Head with a group of friends from Windsor.

Mr. and Mrs. Donnie Smith-

wick of Newport News, Va., spent the week-end with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Layton and Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Smithwick.

Thomas White of Newport News, Va., spent the week-end at home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. White.

Fonda Smithwick, student at East Carolina College, Greenville spent the week-end at home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Britt Smithwick.

Gary Taylor of Rocky Mount visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Taylor on Sunday.

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Merry Hill News

By LOUISE B. ADAMS

Mrs. Van Dempsey, Jr., and children, Nancy and Butch, Mrs. Frances Edwards and daughter, Ann of Scotland Neck, visited Mrs. Dempsey's grandmother, Mrs. C. T. Baker and aunts, Mrs. Viola Cowan and Mrs. Louise Adams Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. George Davis and children, George, Jr., Becky Del and Christine of Elizabeth City spent Sunday with Mr. Davis' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ar-

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