

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 discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.

The General Assembly, which some observers have said was idling along, took off like a jet-propelled rocket this week. 172 new bills were introduced. The money committees made substantial progress; a Congressional redistricting bill reached the Senate floor; and numerous controversial measures were passed or killed in each house.

Finance
Senate and House Finance subcommittees, which had been progressing along somewhat different lines, got together Thursday and agreed upon identical bills to report back to their respective parent committees. Although there are some significant differences which decrease the total expected revenue, the bill embodies basically the Administration proposals, with the proposed tax on prescription drugs, orthopedic appliances, and farm feeds, seeds and fertilizers eliminated.

The hard-pressed Secondary Road Fund would receive a boost under HB 937, which would allocate to that fund the net proceeds of gasoline and oil inspection fees and a proposed 50% increase in motor vehicle registration fees.

HB 902 levies an additional privilege license tax upon branch or chain retail grocery stores; the tax, based upon gross sales, ranges from \$45 to \$600, with branches selling less than \$100,000 per year not taxed.

Congressional Redistricting
SB 353, introduced May 24 by Senators Eubank, Warren of Beaufort, and others was the first congressional redistricting bill to reach the floor of either house. The Senate Committee on Congressional Redistricting reported the bill favorably less than 24 hours after it was introduced, and it passed second reading in the Senate Friday. Efforts to overrule an objection to third reading failed for lack of the required two-thirds majority, so that the bill will remain in the Senate until Monday, at least. The bill places Republican Jonas and Democrat Kitchin in a new 8th district comprised of Anson, Lee, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond and Union Counties. The bill is expected to encounter some difficulty in the House.

Historic and Cultural Programs
The usual group of bills dealing with historical and cultural agencies is appearing. SR 335 designates the Flat Rock Playhouse as the State Theater of North Carolina, but imposes no financial obligation on the State. HB 813 appropriates \$500 for

each year of the biennium for celebration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge. HB 857 appropriates \$25,950 for the biennium for the maintenance and operation of Bennett Place. SB 346 (HB 890) appropriates \$10,000 for restoration and maintenance of the Daniel Boone homeplace. HB 936 appropriates \$125,000 for the purchase of 122 acres in vicinity of Fort Raleigh to be used for improvements, including rebuilding of the Lost Colony Theatre.

Occupational Licensing
HB 445, which would have established a psychologists' licensing board was killed by House Judiciary Committee. The same committee heard testimony favoring HB 773, establishing a licensing board for TV and radio repairmen, but took no vote. HB 699, proposing a board of dental laboratory examiners was reported unfavorably in the House. HB 461, establishing a water well contractors licensing board was tabled in the House, and then was rescued by its sponsor, Rep. Kerr, and sent to the Committee on Water Resources and Control. HB 582, establishing an all-nurse board to license nurses, was reported unfavorably in the House. HB 876 increases the annual membership dues of the North Carolina State Bar to \$20 in lieu of the present 10.

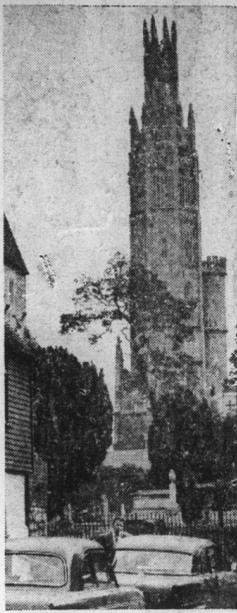
Counties, Cities and Towns
New bills affecting local governments included: HB 839, authorizing county commissioners to advance to drainage districts funds for administrative expenses, the advances to be repaid from drainage assessments; SB 345, prohibiting an electric membership corporation from beginning for the first time to furnish electric service inside the limits of a town of more than 1500 population, without the consent of the town governing board, and protecting the right of existing corporations to continue to serve areas annexed to or a part of a municipality; HB 846, specifying the details of destruction of paid bonds and coupons of counties and municipalities; HB 848, establishing a state grants-in-aid program to promote community alcoholic rehabilitation programs; HB 891, specifying that school bus service must be continued in areas annexed to municipalities in the same manner and to the same extent as it existed prior to annexation; SB 358, authorizing sanitary districts to contract with cities or other political subdivisions for treatment of the district's sewage by the city's plant; SB 360, authorizing and fixing procedure for merger of sanitary districts with cities; SB 363, providing that county or municipal bonds and tax therefor for construction of armories

need be approved by the people only if required by the Constitution, County Finance Act, or Municipal Finance Act; HB 920, eliminating the requirement that any new county building (other than courthouse) be located within one mile of the old building; and SB 370, authorizing municipalities which furnish sewerage but not water service to contract with the water service operator to act as billing and collecting agent for the municipality.

SB 189, authorizing investment of county funds in savings and loan associations was reported unfavorably by a House Committee. HB 738, authorizing redevelopment and rehabilitation of non-residential areas was amended in the House to allow redevelopment bonds to be sold on such terms and conditions as the redevelopment commission fixes, and without going through the Local Government Commission.

HB 768, which adds water conservation worn to the purposes for which county commissioners may appropriate non-tax revenues, passed the House Friday. HB 417, authorizing counties to regulate garbage collection and disposal, was ratified Friday. HB 427, modifying the law governing extension of sanitary districts, was amended to provide that annexation petition signed by 51% of the freeholders resident within the proposed annexed territory eliminates the need for election; and that unanimous petition eliminates need for both election and hearing; HB 508, authorizing cities to require construction of community service facilities in subdivisions, was reported unfavorably in the Senate. HB 509 was amended to authorize cities of more than 1250 population to exercise zoning authority within one mile outside the corporate limits, and passed the Senate. HB 510 which would have repealed the requirement of GS 160-173 that zoning regulations applying to at least two corners of an intersection must, upon application of property owners concerned, be extended to the remaining corners, was reported unfavorably in the Senate.

Miscellaneous
By a 92-21 vote the House passed HB 234, extending the minimum wage law to cover employers of four or more persons. HB 899 is a new article governing licensing and regulation of private business, trade and correspondence schools; it replaces the present law which was declared unconstitutional by the NC Supreme Court. HB 817 provides for renewal of drivers' licenses without examination except where there is a record of violations or accidents, or other cause to believe the applicant is not qualified. HB 818 assesses automobile liability insurers 1/2% of gross liability premiums to build up a \$750,000 fund to pay claims against in-



TOWERING PROBLEM—The owner of this 175-foot-high castle tower in Tonbridge, Kent, England, has a problem. He is having a hard time selling the property, and he can't see plowing \$10,000 into the place to make it livable.

solvent insurers. It may soon be unlawful to poison either man or beast; HB 917 makes it a misdemeanor to sell contaminated animals foods and HB 905 provides several grades of offenses, ranging up to felony punishable by a minimum of 5 years imprisonment, for selling poisonous liquor for beverage purposes.

When it moves to its new home in the Legislative Building, the General Assembly does not intend to allow the old homestead to deteriorate. SB 336 (HB 837) provides for the permanent maintenance of the present chambers as historic shrines, and for initial and final sessions of each General Assembly to be held there, as a ceremony in perpetuum rei memoriam.

Douglas A. Shields
New Executive For
Group Of Banks

A Portsmouth, Virginia, banker, Douglas G. Shields, has been elected executive vice president of Tarheel Bank & Trust Co., which operates branches at Gatesville, Lewiston and Winston, and will assume his duties on June 1.

Shields, who will reside at Gatesville, was born and reared at Parkersburg, West Virginia. He attended Augusta Military Academy at Fort Defiance, Virginia, and West Virginia University. His first business experience was as a Credit Supervisor with General Motors Acceptance Corporation. He then became a member of the General Accounting Staff of Fisher Body Division of General Motors in Cleveland, Ohio. Shields

later returned to G.M.A.C., and remained with that concern until he accepted a position as Loan Officer with Mellon National Bank at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He has been with Citizens Trust Company of Portsmouth, Virginia, as Manager of its West End Branch since 1953, and resigned that position to accept the Executive Vice Presidency of Tarheel Bank & Trust Co.

Mrs. Shields is the former Mildred Marsh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Marsh of Portsmouth, Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Shields have two children, the older of whom, a daughter, is married and resides in Portsmouth, Virginia. Their son graduates from high school this spring.

In addition to his duties as the Executive Officer of the entire operation of Tarheel Bank & Trust Co., Shields will also

serve as Cashier of the Gatesville Branch of the bank, and as Secretary to its Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the Board.

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