

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 discussion of matters of general interest and major importance.

The General Assembly continued to move forward at double-time this week. 146 new bills were introduced and 95 were ratified. The Finance Committees were ready to report to their respective houses, and the atmosphere of urgency which characterizes the drive to adjournment could be definitely sensed.

Revenue

Biggest news of the week was the approval by both Finance Committees of a revenue bill. The bills are identical, with one exception — the House version fixes a 1% tax for 1961-62, increasing to 1½% the following year, on autos, trucks and airplanes, with a limit of \$120; the Senate version taxes these items at 2%, with no limit on autos and a \$120 limit on trucks and airplanes. The difference in revenue for the biennium is estimated to be about \$7 million. The food tax squeaked by the House committee by a 27-26 margin; the Senate committee vote was 13-10.

Even if the Senate version is ultimately adopted by the General Assembly, the Appropriations Committees will apparently find it necessary to do some paring on the tentative budget, which is now \$5 million above the estimated revenue under the Senate revenue bill.

Legislative Representation

In a last-ditch effort to defeat SB 353, which pairs Congressmen Kitchin and Jonas in a new 8th district, 37 House members, including all 13 Republicans introduced HR 999 creating a Congressional Redistricting Commission, composed of

the members of the two Congressional Districts committees, to study the question of Congressional Redistricting and to report and make recommendations to the Governor; the Governor could then call an extra session of the General Assembly to consider the report and take action. Among the criteria which the resolution sets out to guide the commission in preparing a plan are (1) the effect upon partisan politics in the state, and (2) the personalities and tenure of office of incumbent Congressmen. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Congressional Districts, which is now also considering SB 333; the latter bill finds: the road in the House committee somewhat more bumpy than that in the Senate. SB 390, by Sen. Crew, increases the Senate membership by 3, the extra members to be apportioned after each federal census by the Secretary of State to give one to each of the three most populous 1-county senatorial districts. The existing 50 seats would be apportioned without regard to the three extra seats, and no county could have more than 2 senators.

Counties, Cities and Towns

HB 745 makes the Local Government Act apply to every unit of government having power to levy ad valorem taxes, regardless of any general, special or local acts enacted prior to adjournment of the 1961 session; at present the Local Government Act overrides conflicting laws enacted prior to the end of the 1955 session.

HB 738, authorizing redevelopment and rehabilitation of non-residential areas, passed the House Thursday.

HB 1011 requires that bids submitted on public building

contracts under GS 143-129 be sealed, and that bids received after the advertised deadline be returned unopened to the bidder.

An interesting local bill, HB 995, sets a tax valuation, for ad valorem tax purposes, on an industrial plant site in Columbus County.

Motor Vehicles and Highways

SB 97, the 1961 version of the "drunkometer" bill, passed the Senate in amended form on Wednesday and is now in House Judiciary 1 Committee. As amended, the bill provides for chemical tests of breath, blood or saliva, under specified conditions, to determine the alcoholic content of the blood, and sets up percentages which constitute prima facie evidence of the subject's state of intoxication. If a person refuses to take the test after an officer has sworn that there was reasonable ground for requesting the test, his license may be suspended. If the subject is acquitted or the charge is not proved, the license must be reinstated. SB 93, which would have permitted suspension of a driver's license upon two or more speeding offenses committed within a 12-month period (rather than for 2 convictions within a 12-month period) was reported unfavorably in the House; HB 263, authorizing the issuance of learner's permits up to 30 days prior to the 16th birthday of a qualified person, was reported unfavorably in the House. SB 375 requires that automobiles sold in North Carolina after July 1, 1962, be equipped with seat belt anchorages in the front seat, and sets standards governing seat belts.

HB 976 requires motor clubs to obtain a license from the Commissioner of Insurance before doing business in the state. SB 89 passed the Senate in amended form Thursday; the bill would end the 37-year-old practice of distributing motor vehicle license plates through the Carolina Motor Club, and would utilize non-competitive firms, corporations and governmental subdivisions to distribute the plates under contract arrangements.

SB 408 (HB 1009) regulates advertising within 660 feet of the Interstate Highway System. The bill could make the state eligible to receive an additional \$2 million in federal road-building funds. A similar bill was defeated in 1959.

Health

SB 387 prohibits a local board of health or health department from charging fees for sanitary inspections or supervision of any dairy located outside the territorial jurisdiction and political boundary of the board or department, or within the jurisdiction and boundary of another board or department. SB 422 (HB 1023) establishes a compulsory poultry inspection program under the supervision of the Commissioner of Agriculture. SB 244, which establishes a similar compulsory inspection program for meat, passed the Senate; its House counterpart, HB 598, has received a favorable report in the House. SB 127, regulating the sanitation of agricultural labor camps, was reported favorably as amended in the House.

Occupations

HB 980 rewrites the law governing qualifications for applicants for examination as certified public accountants. Experience and schooling requirements are made somewhat stricter, and



AH, LIFE IS GOOD—Danny Hillis, of San Antonio, Tex., is the picture of satisfaction as he polishes off a candy apple at a fair.

examination and licensing fees are increased by about \$10 each. The bill passed second reading Friday, two days after it was introduced.

HB 997 would permit doctors, lawyers, and other professional persons to incorporate. The announced purpose of the bill is to permit professional persons to take advantage of certain tax benefits, particularly in the field of retirement and fringe benefits. HB 986 provides that physicians and surgeons rendering professional services in good faith during an extreme emergency, or at the time of an automobile accident or other accident, disaster or misadventure, shall not be liable for any injury sustained by reason of such services. HB 950 modernizes the law governing licensing of podiatrists.

HB 453, rewriting the barber licensing laws, was ratified on Thursday. HB 41, establishing a water well contractors' licensing board, passed the House after being amended to apply only to operators of power equipment, and after about 40 counties were exempted from its provisions.

HB 234, extending the minimum wage to employers of four or more persons, passed the Senate by a vote of 46 to 2 and was ratified. HB 713, which provides for 5 days cumulative

sick leave at full pay for public school teachers, was amended in House committee to go into effect in 1962 only if there is a budget surplus in 1961-62.

Joseph C. Griffin Makes Honor Club In N. C. Motor Club

Joseph C. Griffin, former resident of Edenton, who is now employed with the North Carolina Motor Club in Greenville, N. C., has gained membership in the most exclusive honor club of his company, The Founders Club, during a recent new sales contest in the state. Mr. Griffin gained membership in the club by writing 52 new master members in less than five weeks during the recent contest. To gain membership in the club a representative has to write 50 or more new master members in five consecutive weeks. Only two other men gained membership in the Founders Club during this period.

Before joining the sales force of the North Carolina Motor Club, he was in the teaching and coaching profession in Florida and Louisiana for seven years. Prior to that he played professional baseball for five years in the Milwaukee Braves organization.

Legion Auxiliary Holds Meeting

The American Legion Auxiliary met Thursday night at the home of Mrs. Agnes Hollowell. The meeting opened with the chaplain, Mrs. Mary Leary, leading in prayer, followed by the group singing "Star Spangled Banner" and repeating together the preamble to the Constitution.

The minutes of the May meeting were read and approved and the secretary gave a report. The Ways and Means committee reported on the success of several money-making projects.

Mrs. Johnetta White, poppy chairman, thanked all who helped toward making Poppy Day successful.

It was pointed out that the



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department president's project is publishing a cook book containing favorite recipes of the Auxiliary members of the state. These books will be on sale by Auxiliary members around the first of July.

The installation of officers will be held jointly with Legionnaires with the date to be announced later.

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—B. C. Brodie.

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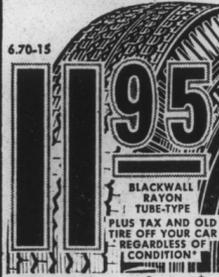
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Opening Announcement
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AT VALHALLA-N. C. 32 HIGHWAY
6 MILES NORTH OF EDENTON
NOW OPEN

Mr. Jimmy Taylor will be our auctioneer. Regular opening and receiving hours for produce will be announced as soon as season's demands are determined.

Auction sales will be held for non-members as in the past. Belt grading of beans, cleaning, grading and waxing cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes. Pre-cooling sweet corn will be available for members. Machinery is ready for operation.

All types of baskets and containers will be handled by the exchange for the members and public, and at competitive prices.

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