

Weekly Legislative Summary

NOTE: This is one 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 1967. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.

The General Assembly of 1967 convened on February 8 and now, less than 10 days later, is well into its opening phase. At this early date the Governor has delivered his two major legislative messages of the session; the administration budget and tax proposals are before the Assembly; most legislative committee posts are filled in both houses; and the Senate has adopted its permanent rules for 1967 with only minor changes from 1965.

This Assembly differs from its recent predecessors most obviously in its composition, by virtue of the 1966 legislative reapportionment carried out under court mandate. The impact of reapportionment is most noticeable in the House, whose members this session represent 49 districts instead of 100 counties. Alterations in partisan makeup are also quite visible, with Republican gains more than doubling that party's 1965 contingent, for a total of seven Senate and 26 House Republicans. A final sign of change is in the turnover of membership. This year finds 71 new faces in the Statehouse—over 40% of the combined membership of the two houses—a sharp increase from the 47 new faces in the 1965 General Assembly.

Few will deny that this Assembly is amply endowed with issues. Perennial money questions are at the forefront, an item likely this year to revolve largely around tax cut proposals and allocation of a large accumulate budgetary surplus. Recent court decisions have left at the legislative door knotty problems in Congressional redistricting and liquor law revision. Issues of educational policy loom large on the 1967 legislative horizon, with a focus on the charting of the state's course in higher education policy. A wealth of interim study commission recommendations will soon be vying for legislative attention, on subjects ranging from revenue structure and election law revision to water resource law and university trustees composition. The legislator who wears of these topics can whet his interest on such matters as interest rate ceilings, daylight savings time abolishing capital punishment, tax exempt industrial bonds, electric utility jurisdiction, penal correctional policy, highway safety and a new appellate court.

Legislative Organization
Both houses elected their legislative officers on opening day, after being convened by Lt. Gov. Robert Scott in the Senate and Secretary of State Thad Eure in the House. In the House veteran Robeson County Representative David Britt was selected as speaker, while the Senate elected relative newcomer as president pro tem, Senator Herman Moore of Mecklenburg who first saw service in the 1965 General Assembly. For the first time in recent memory a strengthening Republican party offered candidates for these two posts, although the result was not

in doubt. The House Republican candidate was Rep. Donal Curren of Henderson County, and the Senate candidate, Sen. John Osteen of Guilford. Speaker Britt will preside in the House, while his opposite number as president of the Senate will be Lt. Gov. Scott.

The two chambers also filled their important administrative and clerical posts on opening day last week. Both houses will benefit again this year from many years of experience in most of these offices, providing the continuity that is so important to a smoothly functioning legislative apparatus. The House elected Mrs. Annie E. Cooper as principal clerk, Sam Burrow as reading clerk and Archie Lane as sergeant-at-arms. The Senate elected to the corresponding offices S. Ray Byerly, Eugene Simmons and W. Brooks Poole. Of this group only Mr. Lane, a former representative, has not seen prior service in his position. He will serve in place of the late Joseph Warren, House sergeant-at-arms for many years prior to his death in 1966.

Governor's Program
Governor Moore has now delivered his two major 1967 messages to the General Assembly, transmitting most of its legislative program.

The Governor's legislative message concentrated its fire on problems and needs of public education at all levels. Salary raises for all educational personnel were recommended ranging from biennial increases totalling 17.5% for public school teachers, and 11% to 13% for college, university and community college teachers, to 5% for most administrative and supervisory personnel. Other education proposals included enrichment of various programs, elimination of the \$5 high school book fee, an studies of public school kindergarten and of the public school system generally. In the realm of higher education the Governor made plain his support of the one-university concept, a position likely to be

tested by proponents of independent university status for East Carolina College and possibly other state supported colleges.

The legislative message also stressed problems of law and order—proposing to strengthen criminal laws dealing with cross burnings and bombing of houses; to offer more liberal rewards for information leading to arrests and convictions of felons; and to make the Law and Order Committee a statutory body. Another focus of the message involved natural resources, where Governor Moore proposed consolidating the Stream Sanitation and Water Resources Boards, transferring air pollution abatement responsibilities from the Board of Health to the consolidated water agency and strengthening water use legislation especially with regard to ground water. Other highlights of the legislative message included approval of the proposed appellate court and an across-the-board 5% raise for state employees. Governor Moore expressed opposition to liquor by the drink while recommending that "brown-bagging" be legalized if consistent with the principle of alcoholic beverage control.

Big news of the budget message was the long-awaited gubernatorial tax package—a combination of income tax exemptions totalling revenue losses of \$23.3 million a year. The new exemptions recommended by Governor Moore were for servicemen's combat pay, the aged (65 or older—\$1,000 exemption), dependency exemptions for students (\$600), and an increase in the basic dependency exemption from \$300 to \$600. The major revenue drain from these proposals, 70% of the total loss, would result from the increased dependency exemption. The Governor proposed to apply \$111 million of a whopping state "credit balance" or budget surplus toward capital improvements during the coming biennium. Although nearly 60% of the

total capital budget would go to higher education facilities, the proposals made heavy cuts in requests of some of the state's institutions of higher learning.

In his budget message the Governor hinted that he would not oppose raising the 6% interest rate ceiling selectively, as in the case of home financing, and recommended consideration of tax-exempt industrial aid bonds with some limitations. He also indicated his approval of an optional 1% local sales tax.

New Bills

Bills are being introduced now at a steady if unspectacular rate. Among the proposals to be dropped in the hopper since opening day are several which implement gubernatorial recommendations—operating budget (SB 19 - HB 34); capital budget (SB 20 - HB 33); Law and Order Committee (SB 36 - HB 75); and tax exemptions (SB 18 - HB 32). Alternative or similar tax proposals have been offered in the House by Rep. High and others—combat pay exemption (HB 4); \$600 dependency exemption (HB 13) and a \$2,000 householder exemption (HB 3). The first "brown bagging" bill of the year has arrived (SB 2 by Sen. Burney), as have the first Congressional redistricting proposals, both in-

volving major surgery on present lines (SB 34 by Sen. Gentry and SB 35 by Sen. Wood).

An old itinerant custom is about to be re-established by the 1967 Assembly after a lapse in tradition by its no-travel 1965 predecessor. This Assembly has already accepted invites for a visit to Beaufort County (SR 15 - HR 27) and a round trip on the Seaboard (SR 11 - HR 15). Awaiting only House approval is a sally to Charlotte (SR 22 - HR 44). RSVP.

Girl Scout News

February 14, 1967. We took up Gies. A new member came in. Candy Hardin and Ann Leary sold the most cookies so they got a prize. We sold 699 boxes of cookies. Then we did some skits. We had some refreshments. Then we went home.

Connie Copeland, Scribe.

EVANS BUYS BULL

B. Warner Evans of Edenton recently purchased an Aberdeen-Anaus bull from Leary Swain, Jr., of Elizabeth City.

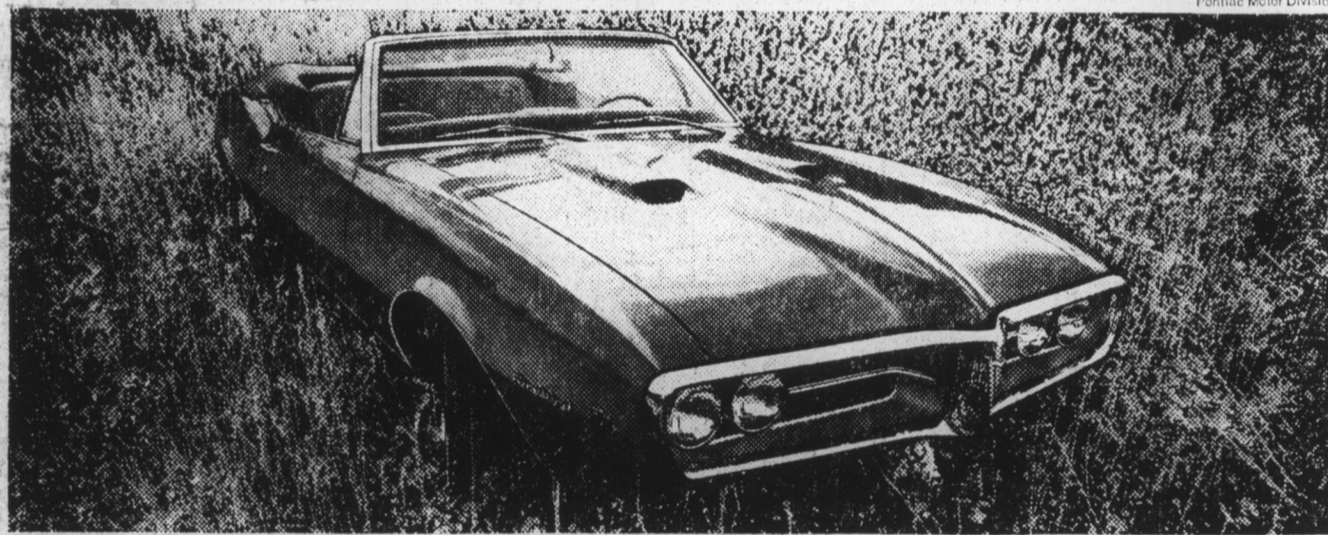
The nature of things continually tends to the destruction of equality.

'Hot Flashes' of Change of Life?

You can get help with Lydia E. Pinkham

AT ALL DRUG COUNTERS

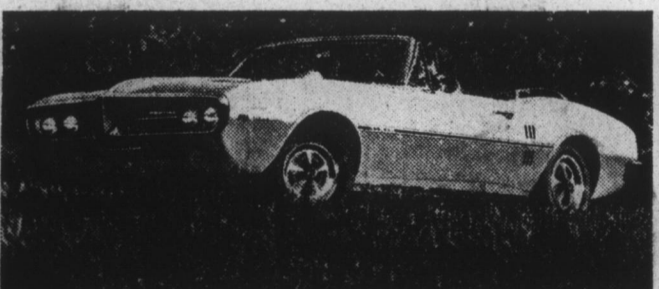
If you thought Pontiac was coming out with just another sports car, you don't know Pontiac!



Pontiac announces not one, two, three or four, but five magnificent new Firebirds for every kind of driving.

Now you can choose from five new Firebirds with the same advanced Pontiac styling, but with five entirely different driving personalities. And they all come with supple expanded vinyl interiors, wood grain styled dash, exclusive space-saver collapsible spare, bucket seats and wide-oval tires.

Firebird 400. Coiled under those dual scoops is a 400 cubic inch V-8 that shrugs off 325 hp. It's connected to a floor-mounted heavy-duty three-speed. On special suspension with redline wide-oval tires. This could be called the ultimate in grand touring. *After this, there isn't any more.*



Firebird HO. HO stands for High Output. As a split second behind the wheel will attest to. The Firebird HO boasts a 285-hp V-8 with a four-barrel carburetor, dual exhausts and sport striping. Standard stick is a column-mounted three-speed. Naturally, all Firebird options are available.



Firebird 326. Is there room for a family in a sports car? There is now. The excitement of a sports car with the practicality of a 326 cubic inch V-8 that delivers 250 hp on regular gas. Standard transmission is an all-synchro three-speed, but you can order an automatic.



Firebird Sprint. Now you don't have to go to Europe for a sophisticated road machine. This is the 215-hp version of our eager Overhead Cam Six. It's mounted on special suspension that practically welds it to the road. (Any road!) With a floor-mounted all-synchro 3-speed.



Firebird. This is our economy Firebird—with the same exciting options and interiors as the more exotic ones. It's Overhead Cam Six squeezes 165 hp from regular for inexpensive fun driving. See them all at your Pontiac dealer's.

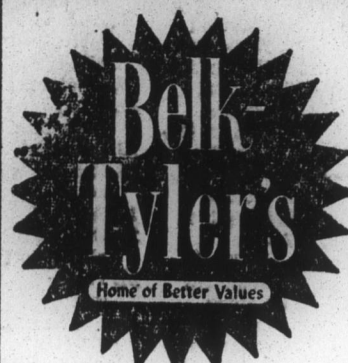


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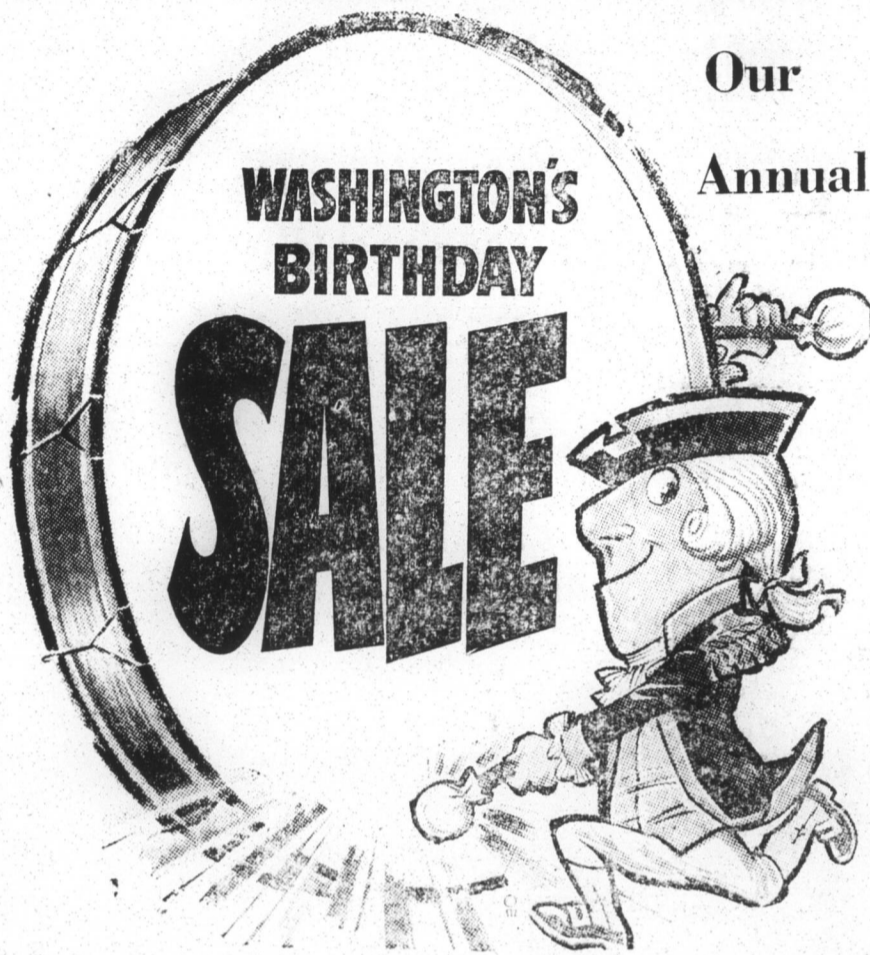
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ITEMS ON SALE INCLUDE: TOWELS, PANTS, SHIRTS, SUITS, BLOUSES, SHOES, FABRICS, SWEATERS, JACKETS, BAGS, HATS, BLANKETS, BEDSPREADS, HOUSEWARES... PLUS MANY, MANY OTHER ITEMS FOR THE HOME AND FAMILY! HURRY IN FOR YOUR SHARE OF THE BARGAINS!

BELK - TYLER'S of EDENTON

Taylor Theatre
Edenton, N. C.

Thursday and Friday, February 23-24—
Tony Curtis and Nancy Kwan in "ARRIVEDerci (GOODEY) BABY"

Saturday, February 25—
Double Feature "REVENGE OF THE GLADIATORS" "BULLET FOR A BADMAN"

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, February 26-27-28—
Burt Lancaster, Lee Marvin and Claudia Cardinale in "THE PROFESSIONALS"

Wednesday and Thursday, March 1-2—
3 Hours of Country Music Double Feature "ROAD TO NASHVILLE" "COUNTRY MUSIC CARAVAN" All Feature in Color