

# Weekly Legislative Summary

**Note:** This is another 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.

**Legislative Research**  
Most observers and legislators would agree that a state legislative session is hardly the time or place for thoroughgoing basic study of matters requiring legislative action. A standing legislative committee may provide a reliable forum for evaluating and perfecting matured legislative proposals. But usually these committees, lacking professional staff,

meeting but four or five months every two years, and lacking continuity of membership, are not well adapted to leisurely studies in depth of complex problems. To help fill this need, the North Carolina General Assembly has often made extensive use of the ad hoc, interim study commission with considerable success.

In the North Carolina tradition the typical study commission includes members appointed from the House and Senate by the presiding officers, as well as gubernatorial appointees. In size the commission may range from five to 15 members, with nine being an average number. The commission will be assigned a limited topic for study between

legislative sessions and for report to the next Assembly with any recommended legislation. It may be given a small appropriation, or the authority to draw on contingency and emergency funds, for consultant and clerical assistance and general expenses. Its members will ordinarily be allowed the same per diem and expense allowances as members of other state boards (principally their travel expenses plus subsistence up to \$20 per day). Variations from this study commission pattern include such examples as the Courts Commission, created in 1963 to continue until 1970 in its work of implementing the new judicial article of the State Constitution.

The ad hoc commission approach has been supplemented since 1963 by a continuing, general purpose study group, known originally as the Legislative Council and renamed the Legislative Research Commission in 1965. Under its present mandate the LRC is composed exclusively of legislators, and is to make such studies of governmental agencies and public policy as directed by its co-chairman (the Speaker of the House and President Pro-tem of the Senate) or by the Assembly itself. Wary of creating a "super-legislature," the General Assembly has limited the functioning of the LRC to the period between adjournment of one regular biennial session and convening of the next session.

apparently on its way to routine final approval, was braked to a shuddering halt. A three-vote overnight switch parlayed Wednesday's 26-23 second reading approval into a 26-23 motion to recommit the bill to the Highway Safety Committee—where it will doubtless receive careful and prolonged consideration. On Friday a last ditch attack was made in the Senate on the water and air reorganization measure, striking mainly at its judicial review provisions and led by Sen. Ailsbrook. The bill survived all proposed floor amendments, passed second reading and appears likely to receive final approval on Monday.

**Swan Songs**

Over a dozen bills gasped their last this week, throttled by unfavorable committee reports or second reading defeat. Among the departed were five local bills, and bills to raise the motor vehicles sales tax, raise driver license fees, to remit 15 per cent of the sales tax to counties, and to permit joint spouse income tax returns. One apparent dead duck, the marshland dredging control bill, after being defeated on second reading in the Senate was revived the following day when its principal tormentor, Sen. Burney, charitably moved for its referral to a Judiciary Committee for a touch of plastic surgery.

**The Week In Review**

The Assembly chugged its way through another week of very heavy going, marked by crowded calendars, long daily sessions and rugged committee work. Along the way the members spawned new obstacles to early adjournment by introducing another 113 bills. The original target date for Appropriations Committee reports, today, passed without a murmur of money, and the earliest likely date for reaching this vital landmark now appears to be next Friday, the 16th. Most discouraging of all in the adjournment picture—for the third successive Wednesday, June 7, the total number of bills in committee bulged slightly larger, up from 825 to 827 bills, despite herculean efforts at calendar clearing in both houses.

The week was spiced with drama from start to finish. On Monday night House members adopted a startling two-week postponement of consideration of the administration tax-cut bill by a 58-57 vote. Overnight, however, as opposition leader Rep. Phil Godwin ruefully remarked, the Governor's "missionaries" did their work, and the tables were turned—postponement was reconsidered on Tuesday and the \$23.3 million tax package was enacted. Thursday brought high theater to the Senate when the twin-trailer trucking bill,

## Degree Earned By Miss Leary

OBERLIN, Ohio—Oberlin College conferred 529 degrees upon 521 candidates from 40 states, the District of Columbia, and 12 foreign countries at Oberlin's 134th anniversary commencement exercises held here Monday morning.

Miss Jo Ann Leary of Edenton, N. C., received the bachelor of music degree. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. West Leary, Jr.

While at Oberlin, Miss Leary was treasurer of the Music Education Club, a member of Oberlin College Choir; and the 240-voice Musical Union.

Delivering remarks to the graduating class was Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, who was one of five recipients of honorary degrees.



MISS JO ANN LEARY

## Edenton Artist Tops In Show

WASHINGTON — Miss Betsy Ross, Edenton artist, took top honors in the Pamlico Art Group's sidewalk show last weekend.

Miss Ross was requested to display four of her paintings and one of them won the top award and the accompanying \$75 cash award.

The artist is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Ross and teaches in the School of Art at East Carolina College.

**There's Still Time**  
"Why are you so sure there is no life on Mars?" "Well, for one thing, they have never asked the United States for a loan."

## 'Head Start' Seminar Topic

GREENVILLE — Two from Chowan County were among about 50 child development workers from eight North Carolina counties who recently attended a Head Start training program at East Carolina College.

Letitia B. Evans and Novella P. Wilson were in the first of four such groups being trained during a four-week period.

Their time was divided between classroom sessions and observation of a model child development program based on approved Head Start purposes and procedures.

## One Bad Shot Can Cause Trouble

ELIZABETH CITY—The dove sat on the telephone cable, grey and motionless in the warm stillness of the early spring afternoon. A few moments before it had been on the shoulder of a secondary road number 1100 in the Weeksville section of Pasquotank County "graveling up."

Now it rested comfortably on the commu-

cations cable while the gravel in its craw aided in digesting the seeds and small grain of its late afternoon repast.

The quietness of the afternoon was interrupted abruptly by the blast of the shotgun. The out-of-season sportsmen found his mark and the bird, caught by the full impact of the load, fell from the cable to the ground. The stillness of death merged with the still of the day lay on the edge of the field, six ounces of grey feathers and flesh, heavier now by the weight of six bird-shot.

The brave hunter casually examined his kill, praised himself on his astute marksmanship with a scatter-gun on a sitting target, tossed the carcass into the ditch beside the road, and went cheerfully on his way, home from the field.

According to officials of the Norfolk & Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Companies here, this is a scene which is repeated many times each year in all of its rural service areas. Unfortunately, it doesn't end with the disposal of the victim bird. If that were the case, the telephone people would not be concerned.

However, in the case of the Weeksville shoot out, or shoot up last March 14, the 125 shot which didn't hit the bird, did hit the cable it was sitting on. The plastic covering on

the 400-wire cable was penetrated and 10 wires were severed.

This again does not outwardly seem to be a world-shaking disaster. But placed on an individual level, considering that those 10 wires constituted the source of communication for as many as 20 telephones in the Weeksville Exchange area, it could have been disastrous for any one or several of the families whose telephone service had been interrupted in the event of a family emergency.

Sometimes service is not immediately cut off. The pellets may only damage the insulation separating the hundreds of tiny wires which make up modern telephone cables. As long as the bare wires do not come in contact with one another or get wet, communications remain intact. Sooner or later, however, the weather brings rain—and along with the rain—problems for the line repairmen.

The recent Weeksville damage affected only 10 wires. Last year a 100 wire cable was out for more than 4½ hours before it was repaired. Since April of 1965, when the local company began keeping records of damaged cables due to shotgun or rifle blasts, it has had 17 incidents reported. The number of wires damaged has varied from two to 100, with the average running at 34.

The time required to repair these breaks has ranged from two to seven and one-half hours dependent upon the extent of the cable damage. A total of approximately 135 man-hours has been expended during the two year period repairing damage of this type.

What concerns company officials is not so much the additional cost to them in terms of dollars and cents for line repair, but the unnecessary inconvenience put upon their subscribers by the apparent thoughtlessness of a few individuals. One official attempted to illustrate the seriousness of the problem by pointing out that the seemingly innocent act of shooting a bird from a cable could conceivably contribute to the death of a human being miles away. He asserted his reasoning was wholly valid in that not being able to contact needed assistance in an emergency situation could prove fatal for the victim. In the case of the 100 broken wires in the South Mills area, the possibility was multiplied by 200 times, the number of telephones affected by that outage.

The company urges the public to give a second thought before firing any type of weapon in the direction of telephone cables. As one employee summed it up, "You may have a good day shooting in the field or along a rural road and return home to find one of your family in urgent need of a doctor or ambulance. It's too late when you can't telephone for help because the cable you innocently cut while having your fun carried your own telephone line."

## Mass Schedule At St. Ann's

Father Joseph J. Lash, pastor of St. Ann's Catholic Church, announces the following schedule of masses:

Thursday, 7 A. M.; Friday, 7 A. M.; Saturday, 7 A. M.; Sunday, 8 A. M. and 12:30 P. M.

At All Souls' in Columbia: Sunday, 10 A. M.

## WEDDING SATURDAY AT ST. ANN'S CHURCH

Father Joseph Lash will be witness to the exchange of vows between Kay Camille Liverman and Raymond T. Bennett at 3 o'clock this coming Saturday afternoon at St. Ann's Catholic Church.

Miss Liverman is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aubrey W. Liverman of Plymouth, and Mr. Bennett is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond H. Bennett of Laurel, Md.

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