

# Weekly Legislative Summary The Roundup

By Wilborne Harrell



The General Assembly ground its way through another of the traditionally frenzied weeks of the end-of-season rush. The order of the day from Monday through Friday was long

## Bill Goodwin, Jr. Returns Home

Lieut. (jg) Willie P. Goodwin, Jr., has completed a tour of active duty in the U. S. Navy and is now visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Goodwin, 214 East Eden Street.

Goodwin's most recent tour was on the landing ship dock USS Point Defiance, whose home port is Long Beach, Calif.

During the past three months the Point Defiance participated in three amphibious assaults on Vietnam. One of these was the first landing of U. S. Marines in the demilitarized zone between the two Vietnams.

Goodwin spent 13 of his 24 months in the Navy serving in the Far East with the U. S. Seventh Fleet in support of the Vietnam war effort.

A 1965 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Goodwin plans to continue his education at Columbia University in New York.

**Be Careful**  
Be wary of half-truth, since it may be the wrong half.

—Record, Mankato, Kan.

hours of committee and floor action involving the mass of important legislation that, this year as in years past, gluts the legislative agendas in its waning weeks.

Calendar committees were appointed this week in both houses, a customary device for discouraging new introductions and expediting pending committee business. Nonetheless more than 100 new bills were unveiled this week, bringing the session's total of bills and resolutions to 2,078. This exceeds the number of introductions for the entire session during every Assembly of the past quarter century except 1963 and the 1963 gross of 2,101 is likely to be eclipsed next week.

No clear sign of a sine die adjournment date is yet visible. The mere mechanics of enrolling laws still to be enacted would almost certainly require this Assembly to continue at least into the last week of June, even if the bulk of remaining business were completed next week.

The appropriations bills have not been reported by the subcommittees on appropriations to the full committee, an event which now seems likely to occur around the middle of next week. For the fourth

Wednesday in succession, this week the total number of bills in committee slightly increased—up from 827

to 829 in two houses, with 328 of these bills resting in the Appropriations and Finance Committees.

### Local Government

The 1959 General Assembly, responding to recommendations of the Municipal Government Study Commission, enacted substantial and far-reaching changes in the powers of local government, with particular attention to the need for services and for land use regulation in developing suburban areas. That Assembly also adopted a fundamental revision of the laws relating to assessment and systematic reevaluation of property for ad valorem taxes. Since 1959, significant legislative changes affecting local government structure and functions by statewide laws have been few and far between. The current General Assembly appears to offer little break in this pattern.

In recent years, one concern of local government improvement efforts has been with finding means to diminish overlap and duplication of services and to encourage cooperation among local governmental units. This area marks one of the bright spots in the local government legislation picture this session.

Some people concerned with problems of local government have stressed the benefits of reducing the number of existing local

units and limiting their

proliferation in the future. Three local bills introduced this session are in line with this objective. One of these would permit, upon favorable vote of the people, the consolidation of three cities and a sanitary district (HB 1139) and another would allow, under similar procedures, the merger of two cities into one (introduced in two forms: HB 1322, HB 1350). The third bill, the only one of the three which has now passed, will permit Wayne County and any or all municipalities therein to merge branches of their government performing similar functions upon majority vote of the governing bodies of the units entering into the merger (HB 163).

One of the principal achievements in statewide legislation affecting local governments was the enactment, early in the session, of legislation concerning ambulance service. This new law provides for regulation of ambulance services by the State Board of Health and local franchising of ambulance operators, with localities authorized to provide ambulance services when not privately available.

Balancing this success was the early defeat by unfavorable Senate committee report of the bill to permit the "electric cities" to acquire competing utility facilities within city limits, with the approval of the State Utilities Com-

mission.

Another significant new law, of course, is the local pail law revision adopted recently with the backing of the Legislative Research Commission. Among the other laws affecting local government already placed on the books this session are acts authorizing counties to regulate peddlers and protect against tampering with county water or sewer lines; permitting use of state prison labor in building and maintaining county garbage disposal facilities; allowing private sale of municipal revenue bonds with Local Government Commission approval; raising to 40 years the maximum term of municipal revenue bonds and water supply contracts; permitting use of computerized or taped municipal special assessment records; and providing for enlarged municipal boards of adjustment in connection with extraterritorial zoning.

Looking toward future legislation affecting local government, the House has passed a resolution now before the Senate that would establish a Local Government Study Commission. Principal assignments of this commission would be to study methods of reducing the volume of local bills, improvements in county government, effects of urbanization on municipal services, and the role of special districts and other special purpose local units.

If you're curious how a beehive operates (no pun) just spend sometime in a modern hospital. And if you think a hospital is a place to take a vacation or get some sleep or rest—forget it. A hospital is one of the noisiest places on earth. But all in all, they're not bad places to be, especially if you have something wrong with you and you need help fast. All the doctors and nurses and orderlies are there to

help you—it's their business. And it goes beyond business to personal interest many, many times. For what greater deed can one do for another than help him when he can't help himself? After all this rambling, you have probably guessed I'm hospitalized. Yep, I'm writing this sitting propped up in bed. One of my greatest problems was with my meals—getting the food I could eat. They also gave me more than I could eat and when I complained, nothing was done about cutting down the quantity. But it was extremely good food, even if I could not consume it all—a hospital is like an army—they even put a dog tag on you, giving your name, rank and

### Process Of Elimination

After grandmother had given Susie a scolding, she overheard the youngster remark to herself: "Somebody is cross in this room; 'taint me, 'taint kitty. I wonder who it is."

serial number. I suppose that is necessary to avoid any possible mixup of patients. What happened in surgery is just a vague memory; my trouble, I'm sure, was relatively minor, but I assure you it was major with me. And there were many, many more patients, I'm sure, worse off than I. Many, about whom I could have said, "there but for the grace of God, go I"

I have had excellent care and treatment and what better time than now to say simply—  
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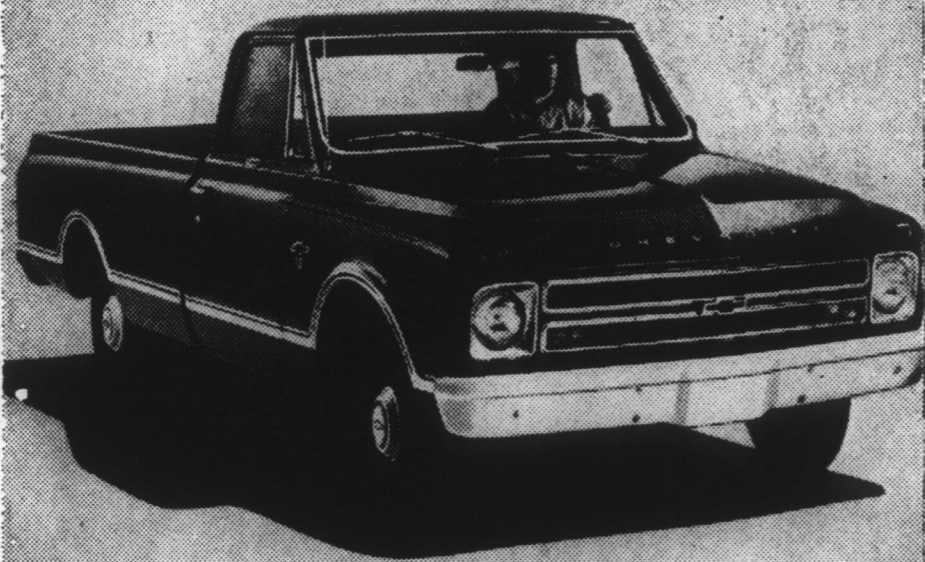
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