

The Weekly Legislative Summary

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 1969. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest.

Once again local bills make up a significant portion of the introductions and enactments of the General Assembly, but the number, as indicated in last week's summary, is substantially lower than last session. A number of explanations for the decline have been cast about. The most frequently heard lays large credit on the Local Government Study Commission. The commission recommended a lessening of the legislature's preoccupation with local legislation, and suggested steps to accomplish just that.

First, it recommended legislation granting all local governments certain powers that individual governments have sought in years past. Included are bills authorizing city and county governing boards to set their own salaries and to restructure themselves, and a bill granting ordinance-making power to counties. Also recommended is a repeal of local exemptions from general enabling laws. Introduction of these bills has not dried up local introductions on the same subjects, but it has seemed to lower the water level significantly.

It may be that members are holding their bills awaiting the outcome of the general legislation. The commission also recommended that all local legislation in each house pass through a single committee, staffed by an attorney. This has been done, and

may be affecting introductions. Bills are—perhaps for the first time—coming under considerable scrutiny in committee, and passage is no longer pro forma; it has simply become more difficult to steer a local bill through the General Assembly. Finally, the commission hoped that members would cease thinking in purely local terms, and this too has achieved a modest success. Several general bills began as locals, but were broadened when the member realized that the problem of his constituents troubled others as well.

The change in attitudes and the closer inspection in committee might also explain another facet of the local bill decline: very few members are introducing local legislation unrequested or opposed by the elected officials at the local level. Although this practice has not been prevalent in recent years, it appears to have even fewer adherents than has been usual. The switch to district from county representation in the General Assembly has been offered as the explanation for this. The necessary preoccupation of most members with an area larger than a single county may preclude becoming sufficiently involved in the affairs of one county to attempt to make wholesale changes from Raleigh. Finally, the greater number of Republicans this session may make it less likely that the Democratic majority will enact local legislation unwanted by the Republicans who represent the affected counties.

Of course, all these explanations may prove to be premature. The local bill deadline is April 11, still two weeks away, and the flood of local bills in those

two weeks may find the local bill waterline at the same level as two years ago.

The local bills introduced thus far generally deal with the same subjects as those introduced in other years—liquor, education, pensions, county ordinances and local government structure. But beside the usual run of local bills there are bills with state wide implication or which have aroused state wide interest.

One bill establishes the Charlotte - Mecklenburg Charter Commission with the purpose of studying local government in Mecklenburg and preparing a single government plan for the entire county. It is expected that the commission's work will be completed toward the end of 1970, with an election in the county on the proposed new government in early 1971. If a majority favors the new government, Charlotte and Mecklenburg as separate entities will disappear, to be replaced by a new city-county. (The Local Government Commission anticipating this movement in 'Metrolina') included among

its recommendations for constitutional change a provision that merged cities and counties would be both cities and counties for constitutional and statutory purposes. The act requires that the plan of government allow each of the municipalities in the county other than Charlotte to stay in or out of the merger, although citizens of those towns would be part of the new government in their status as county citizens.

There was one other local act which was not controversial, which probably has no state-wide implications, but which nevertheless elicited unusual comment upon its passage. That was the act incorporating Whispering Pines in Moore County. Whispering Pines is now North Carolina's only incorporated

FRANCIS ON LIST

Robert M. Francis of Edenton is among 56 students at Holding Technical Institute in Raleigh to achieve the distinction of being named on the President's List for the winter quarter. He is studying civil engineering technology.

village (except Pinehurst which is not a true municipal corporation), has the unique government by town meeting and elects the only executive officer of a municipality designated the president.

Accessories Extra

There had been a motor wreck. One of the drivers climbed out in a fit of temper and strode up to a man standing on the sidewalk thinking him to be the other driver.

"Say, where the devil's your tail light," he roared. The innocent bystander looked up at him. "What do you think I am—a bloomin' lightning bug?"

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Third, it's less work to sow directly in the soil. It takes only a few minutes to mark a row and scatter seeds. It takes a lot longer to start seeds indoors and move to the garden.

Everlastings For Winter...

Your summer garden will go right on beautifying your environment indoors if you sow seeds of everlastings—the flowers that may be used fresh or dry.

The most popular of these is strawflower, partly because it's so easy to grow, partly for the bright, cheery flowers.

Other possibilities are statice (the annual kinds

have pink, lavender, yellow or white flowers); bells of Ireland (green); silver leaf (also called moon penny and Pope's penny), silvery white.

Also Chinese lantern (orange), celosias and cockscombs (red, yellow, scarlet), globe amaranths (white or purple) and baby's breath (airy white).

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

EDENTON, NORTH CAROLINA 27932

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Wednesday Before Easter:

10:30 A. M. Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday:

8:00 P. M. The Institution of the Supper

Good Friday:

Noon - 3:00 Three Hours' Devotion

Easter Even:

Holy Baptism

Easter Day:

8:00 A. M. Holy Communion

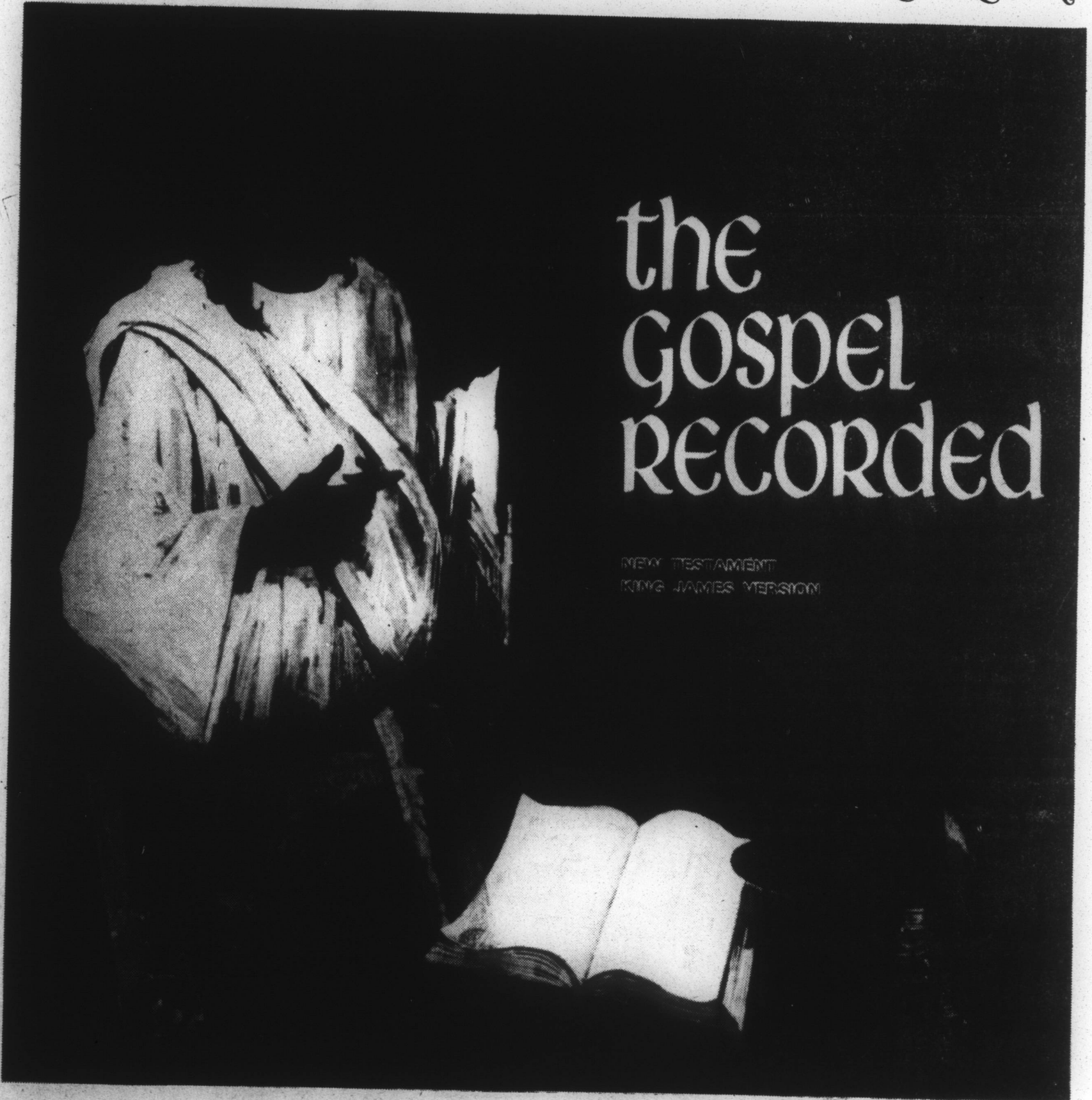
9:30 A. M. Children's Festival

11:00 A. M. Holy Communion

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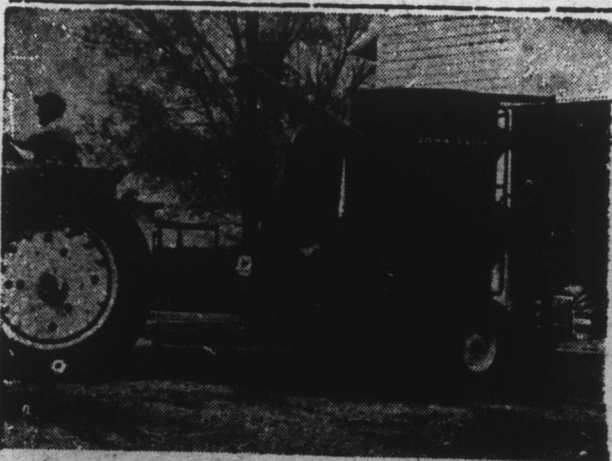
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