

Raleigh Round-Up Of What's Happening In The General Assembly

By MILDRED HUSKINS
Monday, March 24, was the 49th Legislative Day of the 1975 session of the General Assembly and if no important legislation has been passed, as some members of the media have charged, it could be because the members are taking a close look at every little bill.

The House of Representatives, which we try to monitor from time to time from the galleries is certainly of a mind to debate every issue and that is not bad. The folks back home should appreciate the fact that serious consideration is being given to the public's business.

To illustrate, the affable Speaker, Jimmy Green of Bladen, Monday evening called up a bill "for second reading" and got the bad eye from the reading clerk, Sam Burrow. Rep. Jack Stevens of Buncombe, Rules Committee chairman and in charge of keeping the chairs straightened out during parliamentary mix-ups, arose to remind the Speaker the bill had already been passed on second reading and was before the House for third reading. "There has been so much debate on this bill I didn't know what reading it

was," Speaker Green explained.

Later in the evening and near the end of the lengthy calendar, another bill was up for third reading after having been fully debated at a previous session. Rep. Fred Hutchins of Forsyth was introducer of the bill and it was one to exclude employees injured while under the influence of drugs from eligibility for workmen's compensation. It sounded simple enough since the present statutes provide that anyone under the influence of alcohol at the time of injury may not recover. The Gentleman from Forsyth was simply adding drugs to the existing law. But the debate continued and at the time of a pause the Speaker asked: "Any more lawyers confused on this bill? All the laymen thoroughly understand this bill..." and at this point Rep. Liston Ramsey of Madison, a veteran layman, gained recognition as the Speaker groaned. "I don't and I want to ask Mr. Hutchins a question." The Gentleman from Forsyth yielded and the Gentleman from Madison got his question in and the debate continued.

No matter the measure, every-almost, is for the consumer. There were some doubts during the debate on the Milk Commission bill in the House. The makeup of the commission was being thoroughly discussed and the proponents of an amendment were trying to hold their votes when Rep. Vernon James of Pasquotank gained the floor "to speak on the amendment." He said he didn't see why this commission should be so different from the other regulatory board and commissions. "There are no consumers on the medical licensing board; there are no consumers on the lawyer's licensing board; there are no consumers on the barbers licensing board and there are no consumers on the undertaker's licensing board..." he was halted by a roar of laughter from his colleagues.

Barber bills, like bear bills, generate considerable debate for evidently the barbers around the state keep pretty well informed on legislation which will affect them. One such bill, which originated and passed in the Senate, was before

the House on Monday evening. A number of the members had heard from their barbers back home over the weekend for there was a lot of opposition. This bill would set up qualifications of an apprentice barber and the conclusions drawn were that, under the act, an apprentice could be a barber as long as he lived and never be licensed but just practice as an apprentice. Some of the fellows got a little personal and asked dapper Rep. Bobby Rogers of Vance if an apprentice cut his hair and the Gentleman from Vance had to admit no barber had cut his hair recently. Anyway, the bill was soundly killed.

U. S. Sen. Robert Morgan, taking advantage of the Easter recess and making like a postman's holiday, was visiting on the floors of the state House and Senate Monday evening. He was being greeted by his friends from both sides of the court.

Fashion Note: With a couple of sunny, balmy days in the Capital City, several of the legislators appeared in colorful Spring finery. Probably Sen. Herman Moore of Mecklenburg was the most conspicuous, with a sport coat of large squares of navy and yellow over navy slacks. He wore a light blue shirt and navy tie. He rivaled Sen. George (Gorgeous) Marion of Surry who has the reputation of leading the men's fashion parade every day in the week. The Gentleman from Surry was wearing a white suit with gold buttons, properly vested. Probably the most casual dresser in the House this session is Rep. James H. Edwards of Caldwell. However, his dress fits his style. His white ties manage to hold together his baby blue denims, piped with white and elegantly casual. To complete the appearance of a busy legislator, the Gentleman from Caldwell wears his half specs on the tip of his nose.

During the long House sessions, comfort for Rep. Pat Griffen of Durham is to slip out of her shoes and draw her legs up in the black leather chair. When she is called upon to rise for a head count, she simply rises up on her knees in her chair and is as tall as her seatmate, Rep. Richard Wright of Columbus. When the Gentleman from Columbus is out of his chair, the Lady from Durham is known to stretch out a bit and use his chair for a foot rest.

Thursday, the House and Senate met jointly for the ceremony of confirming two of the Governor's appointment to the State Board of Education. Lt. Gov. Jim Hunt presided as president of the Senate and when the deed was done, he asked for a motion to adjourn from President Pro Tem of the Senate, John Henley of Cumberland. The motion was made and the lieutenant governor said, "All in favor of this joint session now adjourning for a long afternoon session of work say 'aye,'" and there was almost complete silence and the "nos" had it but that is not the way the presiding officer called it. The joint session was dissolved and the two bodies did, in fact, return to work. We noted with some amusement that Sen. Ralph Scott of Alamance took a seat on the back row when he came

into the House chamber and, as most of us know, the back row is usually held by Republican members. He was a little out of place.

It is not unusual for a young attorney to seek recognition in the House by beginning his talk with "Your Honor..." It happened to that nice young fellow, Rep. Dave DeRamus, Jr., of Forsyth. When he made the minor error in confusion he was put at ease by the Speaker: "That's all right. Lawyers will be lawyers."

There are many important visitors to the State House and two of them last week were Scuby-doo and Yogi Bear, Carowinds characters being escorted by a blonde lovely in a Carolina blue gown. The fun characters were cutting up around the pool in the court near the cafeteria when Scuby-doo almost fell in. Yogi was quick to rescue his colleague. Later the entourage delighted school children visiting the General Assembly and they spent a few minutes in the galleries of both houses.

Dr. Albert Edwards, pastor of Fist Presbyterian Church of Raleigh and House chaplain, was Holy Week speaker at the regular meeting of the Sir Walter Cabinet on Tuesday and after a fine introduction by Mrs. J. Ruffin Bailey, program chairman, told the story of the fellow who was trying to impress his wife on his importance. They had just listened to a glowing introduction of him as man of the year and he turned to his wife and said: "Well, what do you think of that?" After a few minutes his wife whispered: "Just shows what kind of a year it was!"

Tuesday was one of those glorious days which finally come to us after the storms of days just past. The minister was mentioning the beauty of the day and told the story of the man who was weaving in his lane of traffic and appeared to the highway patrolman that he had been drinking too much. The officer stopped the vehicle and the driver was making excuses about his driving. He was simply deep in thought and made some wrong moves. About that time the officer noted a jug on the seat beside the man and asked about it. "Oh, I can't drink the local water. Too much flourine. I have a little place in the country where I have a deep well and I go out there to bring in my drinking water," the man explained. The officer, still not convinced, asked to smell the contents and was given permission. "It smells like wine to me," the officer said. The driver looked heavenward and said: "Praise the Lord, He's done it again."

Grandmothers are more inclined to welcome the new baby of someone else than anyone. So, four of us planned a shower for little Berit Asbury Brown, six-week-old adopted daughter of Rep. and Mrs. Lane Brown, III, of Norwood, the other night. Now, the grandfathers had been sort of left out except to pay the bills but we hadn't counted on Rep. Dwight Quinn's interest. The Gentleman from Cabarrus got

so caught up with the idea that he volunteered to babysit the infant while its parents went to the Governor's dinner at the mansion. He did not consult his wife who was back at the motel fixing up the party food but she agreed and the shower was on. There were some 20 guests, not counting everyone who passed, along in the hall. The young parents opened the gifts. The babe awoke, stretched and made herself adorable for pictures with everyone. The parents left and it was time to feed the infant. The Gentleman from Cabarrus was in complete charge until time for "the change" and the bottle. About that time, as if prearranged, the Appalachian State University public relations director stuck his head in the door and suggested dinner at the Angus Barn. Guess who was the first out the door! You're right. The Gentleman from Cabarrus was gone to dinner and the Lady from Cabarrus (who else?) was babysitting.

District Court Cases Heard

The weekly session of Chowan County District Court was held March 25 with Judge Grafton G. Beaman presiding. Asst. Dist. Atty. Dick Parker prosecuted the docket with the following action taken:

Lesley John Anderson, drunk driving, 60 days, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs.

David Alfred Daniels, drunk driving, 60 days, suspended upon payment of \$125 fine and costs.

Lorenza Holley, failure to comply with suspended sentence, continued under former order.

Howard Leslie Mitchell, improper equipment, costs.

Amy Taylor Rothenberger, drunk driving, 60 days, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs.

David Walton, assault on a female, prosecuting witness refused to testify and was ordered to pay a fine of \$10 and cost of court.

Joseph Beasley, malicious damage to personal property, 20 days, suspended upon payment of \$20 fine and costs and make restitution.

Reginald Beasley, assault on a female, not guilty.

Wallace Elliott, assault on a female, 20 days, suspended upon payment of costs.

Curtis Ethridge, malicious damage to personal property, five days, suspended upon payment of \$10 fine and costs and make restitution. Notice of appeal entered.

George E. Harris, shoplifting, 30 days, suspended and placed on probation for 24 months upon payment of \$15 fine and costs.

Clemon Holley, inspection violation, costs.

Industry Hindered By Old Equipment

Business today classifies 11 per cent of its facilities as technologically outmoded, compared with 10 per cent at the end of 1972, according to the McGraw-Hill economic survey. Four years ago, at the close of 1970, the figure was 12 per cent.

Prosecuting Witness Jailed

A prosecuting witness was sentenced to three days in jail Tuesday in Chowan County District Court when she refused to testify in a case.

Mildred A. Hayes had charged Paul Gregory, Jr., with assault but when the case was called she refused to testify. Judge John Chaffin then sentenced her to three days in jail.

Dist. Atty. Thomas Watts prosecuted the docket with the following other action taken: Orville Allen Howett, speeding, \$10 fine and costs.

Howard Edward White, non-support, 30 days, suspended upon payment of costs and \$15 per week for support of child.

Kelvin Joseph, speeding, \$15 fine and costs.

Ronald Lee Curtis, drunk driving, 90 days, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs.

William Henry Grissom, drunk driving and no operator's license, 90 days, suspended upon payment of \$200 fine and costs.

Robert Lee Taylor, drunk driving and improper equipment, 90 days, suspended upon payment of \$125 fine and costs.

James E. Copeland, improper equipment, \$10 fine and costs.

Franklin Lloyd Mahan, speeding, \$10 fine and costs.

Lloyd Bond, non-support, 90 days, suspended upon payment of costs and \$15 per week for support of child. He was also instructed to reimburse the prosecuting witness for medical bills.

Manteo Hosts Fishing Event

Fishing vessel electronics and twin trawl shrimping will be featured in a workshop for North Carolina's commercial fishermen and boat owners in Manteo Saturday. The day-long workshop will begin at 8:30 A.M. at Manteo High School.

Marine battery maintenance and problems associated with wiring will be covered by Don Cuning of Ketchikan, Alaska. Cuning teaches a training course in marine electronics at Alaska's Ketchikan Community College.

Dave Harrington of the University of Georgia Sea Grant Program will present a slide demonstration and discussion of twin trawl shrimping, a trawling method using two small nets on each side of the boat instead of a single large net. The slide show will take a look at twin trawling from an underwater point of view.

The workshop is sponsored by the University of North Carolina Sea Grant Program and the Coastal Plains Center for Marine Development. Sea Grant is a program of research, advisory services and education aimed at improving the economic and environmental well-being in the coastal zone.

Vanishing Farm Land

More than 160 million acres in the United States have gone out of farm production since the late 1800's. That's the equivalent of about three-fifths of the nation's harvested cropland today.

Former Pastor Dies In Crash

David Eric Branholm, 37, a former pastor of the Cape Colony Church of Christ, was killed March 23, when the light plane he was piloting crashed near Washington, Ind.

Mr. Branholm, who lived in Hertford until four years ago, was president of the Bluefield, W. Va. College of Evangelism. Officials in Indiana said he apparently died instantly when the single-engine Piper Comanche was forced down in a heavily wooded area by high winds.

The wreckage was discovered about 20 miles from Washington at 1 P.M. Monday. Rescue workers spent several hours in reaching the plane to remove his body.

Bluefield College of Evangelism spokesmen said Mr. Branholm had flown to Washington last week to conduct revival services. Sunday he flew to Indianapolis, about 100 miles away, and was returning to Washington when the crash occurred.

There had been reports of thunderstorms and at least one small tornado in the Washington area Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Branholm was named president of Bluefield College of Evangelism when the school was established four years ago. The college is sponsored by the Church of Christ.

He was born in Tacoma, Wash., but was reared in Fairbanks, Alaska, where he spent the first 19 years of his life.

After graduating from high school in 1955, he attended the University of Alaska. He entered the Army in 1957 and served five years. During his Army career, he graduated from the Army Aviation School, Parachute School, Non-Commissioned Officers Academy and Infantry Officers Candidate School.

Prior to accepting a commission, Mr. Branholm served two years in the 82nd Airborne Division as a paratrooper. He was released from active duty in 1962 as infantry company commander with the rank of first lieutenant.

Following his release from service and prior to entering Bible college, he was an executive for an aerospace corporation. He held a commercial pilot's license with multi-engine rating.

While residing in Monterey, Calif., he attended Monterey Peninsula College and completed his formal training at Roanoke Bible College in Elizabeth City where he was

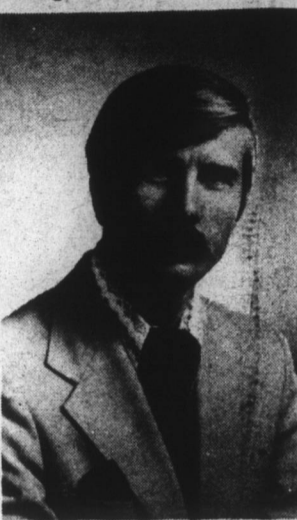
graduated magna cum laude in 1967.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Janet Murdep Branholm, two sons, Kenneth and David Branholm of the home; two daughters, Misses Mary Ann and Carol Branholm of the home; his mother, Mrs. Ann Strand of Fairbanks, Alaska, and a sister, Mrs. Judith Cucchi of Chester, Pa.

Funeral services were held Friday at 1:30 in the Berea Church of Christ near Hertford by Rev. Terry Tuttle and Rev. Thomas Brown.

Active pallbearers were the Board of Directors of Bluefield College of Evangelism and honorary pallbearers were members of the faculty of the college.

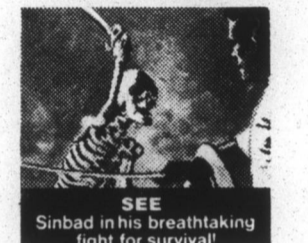
Swindell Funeral Home in Hertford was in charge of arrangements.



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