

From the Gallery

By Mildred Huskins

RALEIGH—When spring officially arrives in a few days it will find the General Assembly has about reached the halfway point in the current 1977 session.

The 44th legislative day begins this evening with the two chambers in session and deadlines are now being set by the leaders for introduction of bills such as local legislation which is designed to clear the deck for the measures of statewide significance such as taxes and budget. Besides there are still a considerable number of matters the governor is expecting the legislature to do for him.

Having been in office about three months now, Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., is about ready to steer his program through the legislative process with the help of several "water boys" who are members and a couple of pretty large liaison fellows, Charlie Winberry and Lynwood Smith, who keep in close touch with the legislators. The governor has announced he expects his main reorganization bills to be before the two houses prior to April 1 and other measures soon thereafter.

Winberry operates out of a miniature suite of offices which were whipped together on the third floor of the State House four years ago for George Rountree, a Wilmington Republican, who served as watchdog for former Gov. James E. Holshouser. The large suite of offices which fronted on the Southeast Court and was occupied by former official contacts for Democratic governors and from which two large coffee urns dispense strong, hot brew and occasionally where there were boxes of doughnuts and at times ham biscuits is now legislative

offices and is denied to the governor no matter what his politics.

It was here we always could find a morning paper and, of course, it was where the newspaper and other media representatives gathered to exchange disparaging remarks about legislators as being lazy and partying politicians. In the eyes of these pundits, legislators could do no right but as a group they made great whipping boys and girls. Poor Charlie Winberry is certainly at a disadvantage for he hardly has space for himself not to speak of a big round table laid with layers of all the state dailies and wall-to-wall moochers. He has managed a coffee pot but enter one at time, please. You just can't have much of a conference in those close quarters...and he's a Democrat, too.

While work is progressing on what is known as the governor's program and House and Senate members are being assigned duties with it, there is the regular run-of-the-mill work.

Monday evening Rep. Richard Wright of Columbus was handling one of Senator R. C. Soles' bills which had to do with some local legislation. Senator Soles of Columbus County had served three terms in the House before being elected to the Senate and he was trying to straighten out some problems having to do with officers of law in his county.

The youthful Wright began by saying: "This is the continuing saga of Columbus County" and was halted by a burst of laughter from his colleagues. He continued to explain that the bill was a local bill to undo some of the work of a "former representative" who most of the members remembered as a

Republican from Southport. Before Rep. Wright went on to explain the bill he asked to send up an amendment, commenting: "The senator has not done all of his research."

Speaker Carl Stewart interrupted to add, "We'll ask the clerk to strike that." The amendment was adopted after the members first shouted "No" as a bit of a joke. About that time Rep. John Ed Davenport of Nash, who heads the Judiciary Committee to which the bill had been sent, explained that when the Senate Bill 137 had been sent to his committee he had exclaimed: "Why me, Lord?" After all the fun and games, the Gentleman from Columbus got the measure passed and it was sent to the Senate for concurrence with the House amendment.

A little bill which would require printed or written campaign materials to indicate thereon the name and address of person or persons authorizing distribution of such material was being debated in the House and had created considerable interest. It was introduced by Rep. David DeRamus, Jr., of Winston-Salem and brought objections from the black members of the House and several easterners. Rep. Stanford White of Dare accused the Gentleman from Forsyth of "taking all the fun out of politics. Let us enjoy ourselves in politics. I think this is a bad bill." Well, whether it was to let the politicians enjoy themselves or not, the bill was sent back to committee and it is still there.

Wednesday there was considerable debate on House Bill 248 which has to do with persons instructing unlicensed drivers being under the influence of in-

toxicants. The bill would prohibit the adult who was instructing or accompanying the learner with a permit from being under the influence. All seemed to be agreed that this adult should be completely sober but the argument was over whether someone riding in the back seat and instructing the driver would be covered by the bill. Rep. Mickey Michaux, Jr., a black attorney from Durham, was speaking on an amendment which would make it illegal for this backseat driver to be intoxicated. The Gentleman said the amendment was not necessary for under the present law the person instructing must be beside the learner. "He can't instruct from the back seat," the gentleman said. Rep. Richard Erwin of Winston-Salem said: "Maybe you haven't had your wife on the back seat."

Probably creating more debate than anything to come up during the week was a little old resolution to exclude resolutions. This House Joint Resolution was introduced by Rep. Peter Hairston of Davie and would do away with the practice of members introducing resolutions to honor former members of the House and Senate who were still living, baseball and basketball teams, bands, etc. The Gentleman from Davie argued that these were time consuming and besides they cost considerable money to process through the legislative mill.

Rep. Bob Jones of Rutherford asked Rep. Hairston about one line in the Bill which includes living members of the Senate, House and "other unnecessary items." To which Rep. Hairston replied: "I am glad to admit the

Gentleman is a necessary item." As the debate continued and time was running out the Speaker said: "I would advise the Gentleman from Davie his resolution is running a high fever." Rep. Marcus Short of Guilford wanted to amend the resolution to limit debate on the various resolutions saying: "The debate bothers me more than the money." That amendment went the tabling route. Then someone objected to the third reading after the resolution had squeaked by on second reading. So, Friday the measure was passed by a vote of 51 to 50 and was sent to the Senate.

During Debate on the bill which would increase inheritance tax exemption applicable to living spouses from the present \$10,000 to \$30,000 a bushel of tears was shed for widows and children. A number of sad tales were told as members debated the measure and anyone objecting was a bad boy. Rep. Sam Bundy of Pitt was in favor of the bill but added at the conclusion of his speech: "I hope my wife will never become a widow."

We joined more than 400 legislators, spouses and staff members along with some of the lobbyists for a series of tests during a legislative screening clinic

held in one of the courts Thursday. The screening was for glaucoma, diabetes and hypertension and we all got the works. The entire examination process took about 20 minutes and sometimes lines formed before the nurses' stations. We were waiting our turn when former Senator Tom White of Kinston came out of the last station where he had a blood pressure test and we asked if he passed.

"I've been all the way through and they couldn't find a thing wrong with me except old age and they don't have a cure for that," he reported.

School board members and superintendents of the units over the state were invited to meet with the joint House and senate Education Committee Wednesday.

METHODIST TOPIC
"Acceptable In Thy Sight" is the topic chosen by Rev. E.L. Earnhardt for the 11 A.M. service Sunday at Edenton United Methodist Church. His text is Psalm 19:12-14.

JIMMIE M. PARRISH, III
Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Parrish, Jr., announce the birth of a son, Jimmie Moore Parrish, III, on March 10 in Chowan Hospital. Mrs. Parrish is the former Anne Leary.

Calendar for ensuing week:
Monday — 7:15 P.M. —

Providence Church News

"I Will Let Nothing Separate Me From the Love of Christ" was the subject of Dr. Fenner's morning worship service Sunday. His subject was taken from Romans 8:35-41.

With the many problems facing us daily, such as unemployment, drugs, crimes, floods, famine, inflation, etc., our love for Christ should be so euphoric that even these things should not hinder or separate us from the love of Christ. Sometimes it will be very difficult to see where we are going, but our love for Christ will teach us to walk by faith, rather than sight.

There even will be times when trials and tribulation will be forever pressing and everyday will seem like a cloudy day, but if our love for Christ is as a tree planted by the waters, then nothing will separate us from the love of Christ.

The pastor, officers and members invite you to any service at Providence. Our doors are always open. We cordially invite you to attend the Church where everybody is somebody and Christ is Lord of All. Won't you join us as we reconcile and strengthen our love for Christ?

Church School begins at 9:30 A.M. Morning worship service begins at 11:00 A.M. with the Senior Choir serving. Dr. Fenner will be in charge of morning worship service.

Calendar for ensuing week:
Monday — 7:15 P.M. —

Young Men's Brotherhood Meeting - Charlton Building.
Wednesday — 7 P.M. — Mid-week Prayer Service - Charlton Building. The pastor invites all members and friends to attend this service.

Future Happenings:
Sunday — March 20 at 4 P.M. The Missionary Society will feature-sponsor the Edenton Community Male Chorus in an afternoon of good spiritual singing.

Sunday — March 27 at 4 P.M. the Young Women in Action will observe their second Anniversary. Guest speaker for said occasion will be Rev. Jessie Smith, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church. Music will be rendered by Mr. Smith's Young Adult Choir, the Black Movement of Elizabeth City and other selected guests.

PERSONAL NOTE

Mrs. Bob House and children, Lynn and Jennifer of Harrellsville visited Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Smithwick Sunday.

LOSE INCHES!! POUNDS!

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	GWALTNEY FRANKS pkg. 59¢	PARADE MARGARINE 3 lbs. \$1.00
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SWISS MISS ICE CREAM ½ gallon 79¢	PARADE BLEACH 1 gallon 59¢	GIBBS PORK AND BEANS 2½ OZ. SIZE 2 for 89¢
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NORELCO SHAPE 'N DRY 750 Fast Drying, Easy Styling 750 watts of drying power plus 5 styling/grooming attachments to put anyone's hair in shape. MODEL NO. 88-6480 COMPARE AT 22.95 \$11.88	STONEWARE MUGS SET OF 6 WITH FLORAL DESIGNS \$4.29 PER SET	NOMAD DOOR MAT TRAPS DIRT • EASY TO CLEAN • ATTRACTIVE DESIGN • 18" x 34" • DIRT DROPS THROUGH TO BACKING \$3.59	BLANK Cassette Tapes C-60 3 PER BAG 99¢
ADORN HAIR SPRAY 3-OZ. Your Choice COMPARE AT 5.49 \$1.49 EACH	ROSE MILK SKIN CARE 12-OZ. COMPARE AT 2.39 \$1.29	SO DRY TWIN PACK COMPARE AT 1.99 99¢	2 FOR COLD CAPS 12" x 2" 97¢
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