

From The Gallery

Legislature Continues Work On \$8-Billion Budget

By Mildred Huskins
RALEIGH—Time is running out for the 1977 session of the General Assembly and the frenzied activities, the long days and extended calendars indicate the members will be counting time in days rather than weeks.

During the entire five-and-one-half-months, work has gone forward on the record \$8 billion budget and, until it is in balance, the General Assembly will continue in session.

But the budget is not the only thing which has been going on around the legislative halls. Nearly 1,500 bills have been introduced in the House of Representatives and the introducer of each one has worked to get that piece of legislation ratified. Many of these bills were local measures requested by the public bodies in the various districts. Then there are the public bills which affect all the people in the state and these also require the attention of the members of the house. They are assigned to an appropriate committee where hearings are open to the public and the press representatives. There is a great deal of discussion of these in committees which meet regularly during the entire session. Then, if the bill is not in order or not as members of the committee think it should be, the committee writes a committee substitute. If this is acted on favorably by the majority or the committee members, it is reported out for action on the floor where all members get a crack at it during debate and then vote.

So, it is no wonder that considerable time must be consumed to carry out the process of lawmaking. There should really be a better way but we haven't been able to come up with one yet. Ours is a citizen legislature—meaning, of course, the members are not

full-time or professional legislators. They have to make a living for their families as well as spend about six months or more out of one year and a few weeks out of the second year of their two-year term living and working in Raleigh. They all are paid \$4,800 a year and, while the legislature is in session, receive subsistence pay.

We haven't changed our prediction that the current session will close down about June 24 or certainly by July 1. It will then be back to the district to answer the voters on why and how of all the things which took place during the time they were in Raleigh.

Some of the more technical measures can get to be rather tiring, particularly if it happens to be something which is not readily of interest. Probably young Eric Ager said it better than anyone we know. The youngster is the two-year-old grandson of Rep. Jamie Clarke who had brought him to a meeting of the Public Utilities Committee one day last week. At the close of the meeting Eric

observed: "This really has been boring."

At this stage of the game, it is not unusual for members to be a little tired and somewhat irritable. Often there are some short answers to nitpicking questions. Debate was in progress on the floor of the house on revising the controversial Coastal Resources Management Act. Rep. Tommy Rhodes of New Hanover was making a speech in opposition to the bill when Rep. Wilda Hurst of Onslow sought the floor to ask a question.

"Why are you voting against this bill? Do you realize my ports authority bill is still alive?" she wanted to know.

What it was all about was that she was just giving him the message. The bill she referred to was her measure which would transfer the ports authority from Wilmington to Morehead City.

It was during the extended debate on the coastal management revision bill which was being handled by Rep. Dan Lilley of Lenoir that Rep. Ed Holmes of Chatham was speaking in favor of the bill and had said the same type legislation was needed on the coast and needed in the mountains. This brought the mountain men to their feet en masse. Alas, the gentleman had mentioned a mountain management act.

Rep. Liston Ramsey of Madison was the first one up to ask a question.

Will the gentleman from the Piedmont yield to the gentleman from the mountains? Speaker Carl Stewart asked Rep. Holmes. He would yield.

"Rep. Holmes, don't you think when you went 100 miles to the west you started meddling?" asked the gentleman from Madison. He got no answer to that one but Rep. Allen C. Ward of Brunswick arose to oppose the bill. He said the Coastal Management Act was enacted before he was elected to the General Assembly and during the tenure of the only Republican his district had sent to the legislature in 30 years. He said he hoped he would be the last one in the next 30 years.

That was a little too much for Rep. Fred Dorsey to take since he is one of the few members of the minority party in the body.

"Now, sir, don't you think you've started meddling now?" he asked in jest. Mr.

Ward did not think the question was a joke and responded with a resounding, "No."

Rep. Vernon James of Pasquotank, also opposing the bill, had been speaking on the measure for some time when he was interrupted by the bill's sponsor who apologized thus: "I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I thought the gentleman was through."

"Well, I am, almost," the gentleman from Pasquotank said. "I've about shot my gun."

The bill to restrict Coastal Resources Commission's authority to designate areas of environmental concern passed second and third reading in the house by a slim margin and was sent to the senate. However, a bill which would repeal the act, which was passed in 1973 and affects 20 counties in the coastal area, is being considered by the House Committee on Water and Air Resources. A public hearing was held Wednesday on the bill and it drew heated debate from both sides and filled the auditorium.

Even the reading clerk, Sam Burrow, is getting rather tired and often mispronounces words. Wednesday afternoon he was reading the title of a bill which had come out Rep. Jo Graham Foster's committee. One of them had to do with a bill which would affect retired teachers. Burrow was reading along rather rapidly and said "retarded teachers" which brought the House down. However, Rep. Foster, being a former teacher and currently a supervisor in the Mecklenburg County schools, said in an accusing voice: "Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure that was an error."

There was another lit-

tering bill before the house on Thursday and it was being explained by Rep. Charles Holt of Cumberland. Rep. Taylor again wanted to be heard and to ask a question.

"Mr. Holt, if I were deer hunting and I sat down on a stump to eat my lunch and set the vienna sausage can down before the stump, would I be guilty under this bill?" asked the Bladen lawmaker.

"Mr. Taylor, I hope so," was Mr. Holt's response.

Rep. Peter Hairston of Davie was called upon to explain a bill which made technical revision in the general statutes.

"These changes are purely technical," drawled the gentleman from Davie. "In committee while I was explaining them the distinguished gentleman from Pitt slept through the entire explanation," Mr. Hairston said.

Rep. Sam Bundy of Pitt arose and announced: "What the gentleman says is correct. He's better than Sominex."

At the close of the lengthy Thursday session Rep. John Ed Davenport suggested to the speaker that he appoint a sergeant-at-arms to assure that Rep. Al Adams of Wake attended the full session until after 4 P. M. Friday. As a result the speaker named Rep. Fletcher Harris of Lee, probably the heftiest member of the house, and Rep. Hunt of Orange to take care of the gentleman from Wake.

It seem that Rep. Adams was supposed to be married at 4 o'clock Friday and fly away to New Orleans for a weekend honeymoon. He is expected to return to House duty Tuesday.

House members remained in session Friday from 9

A.M. until almost 3:30 P.M. and more than half of a very lengthy calendar was completed. Near the close of the session the members were debating a bill which would provide free tuition for fulltime UNC faculty members wishing to take university courses if space is available. Just before the vote was taken Rep. P. C. Collins of Alleghany arose and asked if he could explain his vote.

"The rules do not provide for a member to explain his vote," the speaker explained.

"Then, Mr. Speaker, may I speak on a point of personal privilege?" continued the Alleghany legislator.

"The gentleman may circumvent the rules and may state his point of personal privilege," the presiding officer said.

"I am going to vote against the bill because I'm afraid all the faculty from Carolina will rush up to Appalachian to take some courses," explained Mr. Collins.

The bill passed in spite of Mr. Collins' vote.

Methodist Covered Dish Supper Slated

A covered dish supper will be held at 7 P. M. Sunday at Edenton United Methodist Church to provide the congregation an opportunity to meet their new pastor and his family.

Rev. Richard R. Blankenhorn preached his first sermon here Sunday morning and his family is moving into the parsonage in Morgan Park this week. "God's Plan for Spiritual Growth" is the topic he has chosen for the 11 A. M. worship service Sunday. His text is Acts 2: 42.



WINNER OF DRAWING—Joan Waff of Route 3, Edenton, was recently a winner of a Pride Trimble Play Pen given away during a drawing at S & R Supermarket. Mandy Kirk, cashier, right drew the winning ticket. She was assisted by Dave Faircloth, manager, left and Frank Nixon, asst. manager.

Herald Kitchen

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time. For something different, the mousse and sauce can be layered in parfait glasses and then chilled. Swirl more peanutty sauce on the tops of the parfaits just before serving.

Peanutty Sauce Over Chocolate Mousse

- 1/2 cup peanut butter, smooth
- 1 pkg. (6 oz.) semi sweet chocolate pieces
- 5 eggs, separated
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 packet whipped topping mix
- 3/4 cup cold milk

Melt chocolate pieces over very low heat. Cool slightly. Beat egg whites at high speed until stiff peaks form. Beat egg yolks until lemon colored. Add vanilla and chocolate. Blend lightly. Add chocolate mixture to egg whites and fold to combine, well. Pour into individual molds or serving glasses. Chill several hours. Beat topping mix and milk together until frothy and thickened; about three minutes. Add peanut butter and beat until smooth. If sauce is too thick, stir in additional milk until desired consistency. Makes four servings.

THREE CIGARETTES FOR FATHER

Sunday, June 19th

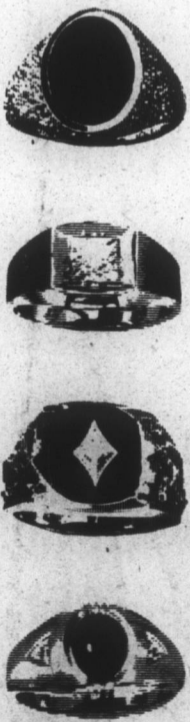
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