Raleigh Roundup: Appropriations Committee Reviews Budget

By Mildred Huskins RALEIGH — The 1981 General Assembly is officially organized and ready to get on with its reason for being here. It has the proposed budget in hand and is taking a close look. The joint appropriation committee is already leafing through the near- \$12-billion budget submitted by the governor and prepared by the Advisory Budget Commission. There is no doubt there will be some drastic axing done some of which could cause a bit of unhappiness in various

departments. The legislative committee studying the document meets each day for an hour and onehalf and is not averse to asking bureaucrats some very innteresting questions regarding expenditures and practices. The money bills being introduced in both houses from day to day indicate there is a more conservative school of thought around these halls, some of which, was brought home to most of the members during the last General Election. The informal discussions reflect that feeling and those who promised "no new taxes" during the campaign may just be forced by the folks back home to live up to that campaign promise. Accountability is abroad in the land and these lawmakers are aware of it.

After a number of years of observing this body in working and playing posture, we have never seen the members so serious about the problems confronting them. The House Finance Committee, chaired by the Dean of the House, Rep.

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already busy with daily sessions in the business of searching for means of financing necessary services, knowing full well that the funds available to meet needs will be much more difficult to come by.

But, the sense of humor of these men and women never ceases to amaze.

For instance, over in the Senate the other day Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green was completing the announcement of committee appointments. It turned out to be confession day. It seems that some of those members who managed to get reelected had been supporters of Carl Stewart, Jr., in his race with the lieutenant governor for his job. One of these was George Marion, Jr., of Surry. He had requested a certain committee assignment and really doubted he would get it. However, he was appointed to the chairmanship of the Committee on Government and Regional Affairs.

Now the Gentleman from Surry felt it in his heart, on a point of personal privilege, to thank the presiding officer for the appointment and concluded that he just wanted his colleagues to know how fair the lieutenant governor had been. That was just the beginning.

Sen. Robert Wynne of Wake had also "sinned" but was grateful for being forgiven by a nice committee assignment and then Sen. Henry Frye of Guilford, who had served several terms in the House but won election to the upper chamber during the last election, also confessed and stated in a poem that confession is good for the soul. One of the faithful, Sen. Conrad Duncan, Jr., of Rockingham, arose to absolve those who had

back into the fold.

Lt. Gov. Green accepted it all with good humor, saying he respected folks who learned from their mistakes. "My mother always told me I should return good for evil," he said.

Tuesday was moving day in the Legislative Building and several office plums changed hands. Legislators are pretty size-conscious and that is understandable by most anyone who has visited their legislator and seen the cramped quarters. In the House made up of 120 members, 32 of them were moving. The top people in the administration of Rep. Carl Stewart, Jr., as speaker, found they had been assigned to somewhat smaller offices as those in favor of the new speaker, Rep. Liston Ramsey of Madison, moved into the larger quarters provided for chairmen of principal committees.

"I've got the smallest office on the second floor," said Rep. Ben Tison of Mecklenburg, who was a top lieutenant of the former speaker. His double office is now occupied by Rep. Allen Adams of Wake, a close associate of the present speaker and co-chairman of the influential Appropriation Committee.

"I went from a three-block office to a four-block one," said Rep. Douglas Clark of Duplin, who was an early Ramsey

supporter. There were 16 senators moved. When someone asked where he would find Senator Marion, a colleague joked: "He's in the basement, of course." Sen. Kenneth C. Royall, Jr., of Durham, was awarded Marion's office in his capacity as chairman of the powerful Ways and Means Committee. That office is considered a real plum since it is just back of the Senate

Chamber. Size does make a difference.

-0-Beginning Monday evening, a group of pro-ERAers will be holding a candlelight vigil in front of the Legislative Building to keep the lawmakers aware of their determination to get the amendment ratified. After the brief session of the legislature last Monday evening, a woman returned to the building in a stew. She said she had lost her pocketbook and the search was on. However, she went away empty-handed. The next morning the staff cleaning in a third floor Gentlemen's restroom found the ladies' bag hanging from the door knob.

Well, that was a truly liberated woman.

-0-That same evening, things were getting a bit quiet in the building as legislators filed out and an elderly black man came to the information desk.

"When are they leaving?" he

The attendant directed him toward the elevators thinking ne wanted to get up to the

strayed and welcomed them legalleries before the chambers were completely cleared of

Later as staff members checked the building before closing they found the visitor comfortably seated on one of the benches in the West Court ... waiting for his bus.

Rep. Ernest Messer of Haywood is again chairing the Committee on Aging in the House and has wondered for the past two sessions why there was Senate. This time Sen. Rachel Gray of Guilford has been named chairman of the new committee in the Senate. It is called the Committee on Senior Citizen Affairs and the Gentleman from Haywood quipped: 'We'd like to get in on some of their affairs."

-0-Sen. Joe Palmer of Haywood is chairman of the Committee of Veterans Affairs, and learned several months ago that his colleague, Sen. Bob Swaim of Buncombe, was eligible for the from Buncombe was a pilot in World War II and during a strafing of enemy position his plane was shot up and he was forced to land in a wooded area and was injured. Finally he was awarded the medal in December

Sen. Bill Redman of Iredell. also a retired Air Force pilot, arose in the Senate to announce the honor which had finally come to Senator Swaim and asked another Senate colleague, Walter C. Cockerham of Guilford, if he wouldn't like to have the Gentleman from Buncombe co-pilot his plane to the inauguration in Washington. "No, I sure would not,"

stormed Cockerham. "I certainly don't want a pilot that set

his plane down in the woods. I want to be sure I get to D.C.,

It was all in fun ... from one

Rep. Bob Jones of Rutherford is the most ardent of the Wake Forest basketball team supporters. Friday he was in mourning. We saw him arriving late running towards his office where he was asked where his black arm band was. "Whew, I sure hate to go up there this morning," he said as he caught Speaker Liston Ramsey had

not yet opened the brief session and, as Jones entered, he was welcomed by a group of UNC supporters. Rep. Betty Forton Thomas on Concord, broke into "Hark The Sound" and pointed out that the gentleman was wearing a Carolina blue suit and even his socks were blue. After the session was opened with prayer by the chaplain, Albert Edwards, who prayed that even in defeat we should find goodness and that "these men and women will find goodness in their day-to-day

Rep. Allen Barbee of Nash, a longtime booster of the Tar Heels, arose on a point of personal privilege. "I have never tried to amend a prayer, but the best team won .. not defeated," he concluded to a

smattering of applause. Then it was Jones' time. "Mr. Speaker, I'll admit we were defeated and I congratulate the winner. It was a bad night for me but a friend called this morning offering me two tickets to the Super Bowl. I'm going down there, but you can be sure. I'm not going to wear this Carolina blue suit."

-0-Rep. Sam Bundy, the cigar

reputation for being first in the food line at the breakfast meeting of the Alcoholism Research Authority Thursday morning at the Hilton, but he had to depend on Republican help to do it.

As usual, Rep. Bundy, who had arrived later than some of the other legislators was at the head of the line when the word was given to start serving. But Reps. Jo Graham Foster and Edith Lutz, who had been there all the time, would have none of

"No you don't, Sam Bundy. Not when we've been standing here all this time," they said, steering him toward the parallel line going down the other side of the buffet table.

For a moment it looked as if Sam's record was going to fall. But then Rep. Ried Poovey, oldest Republican in the house, who headed the other line, came

"Here, Sam," he said, "you can go ahead of me." And that's just what Rep. Bundy did.

"I'm still at the head of the line," he chorteled, "even if I did have to depend on my

Assembly Of God Sermon Topic

Rev. Norm Gloeckler will be delivering a message entitled "Make Room For Daddy" during the 11 o'clock worship hour Sunday. Mark 1:20 provides the text. The "Fishers of Men" campaign continues through the end of February.

Republican friends for help." With that, the scrambled eggs

Jack Lancaster, a page from Carteret County, sat down at the lunch table with Reps. J. P. Huskins of Iredell and Ned

Smith of Forsyth and was caught up in the conversation. "So you're from Carteret?" the Gentleman from Iredell wanted to know.

"Yes, sir. I live in Newport." "Well," Rep. Huskins continued, "I want you to know, now that you're a public official.

that I'm a taxpaying constituent of yours and I want you to hold down expenses while you are up

"Is Carteret Democratic or Republican?" Rep. Smith

"It's pretty close," young

Lancaster replied.

"Are you a Democrat or a Republican?" the Gentleman from Forsyth wanted to know.

'My grandfather was a Democrat, but there are Republicans in my family. I guess that makes me a conservative liberal."

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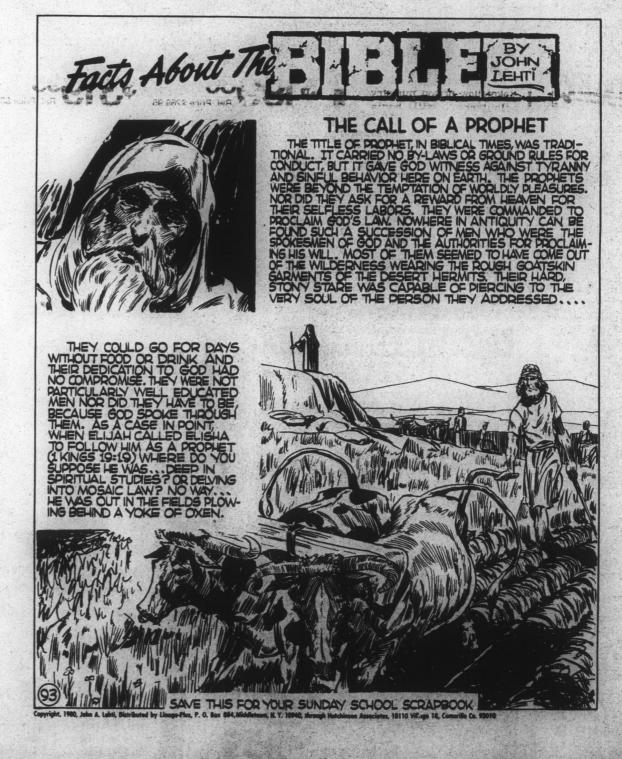
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