

Raleigh Round-Up: Savings And Loan Bill Put In 'Deep Freeze'

By Mildred Huskins
RALEIGH — The rivalry for power in the General Assembly between the House and the Senate, usually kept pretty well underground until later in the session, has already raised its ugly head in at least a couple of cases and will probably continue as strong leadership in both bodies exert their considerable influence.

The leadership in the House took a mild beating Wednesday when the bill to allow savings and loans to be taxed as regular corporations came up for action. Later it was explained, at length, that the heated debate was just a simple lack of communications. Somebody just didn't do his job and Thursday became confession day and an early Love Feast resulted.

It all happened when Rep. Dan Lilley of Lenoir briefly explained the bill and it was up for a vote. About that time Rep. Al Adams of Wake, a close associate of Speaker Liston Ramsey and co-chairman of Committee on Appropriations, arose to make a motion to remove the bill from the current calendar and place it on the calendar for June 2. The idea, of course, was to await more current revenue estimates since this particular measure would reduce the amount of taxes paid by their financial institutions and in this way reduce the revenue for the state in the next two years. It seems that some agreement had been made that the bill would be held in either the House or the Senate to be acted upon at a later date. But where? That was the question

The bill had cleared the Committee on Finance and reported out to the floor. The real question was whether to "deep freeze" it in the House Finance Committee or the Senate Committee. After all of the leaders had spoken in favor of the motion by Mr. Adams, a vote was taken and the motion was defeated and the bill passed the House on second reading. It was on the calendar for third reading Thursday. Confessions and apologies came thick and fast and then Rep. Dwight Quinn, Finance chairman, moved that the bill be referred to his committee. That one passed. So, the bill rests at this time in the House "deep freeze."

However, before the vote was taken on the motion to re-refer the bill, Speaker Ramsey said: "Anybody else want to 'fess up?'" That seemed to be all since his speaker pro tem, Allen Barbee of Nash, and the other Appropriations chairman, Rep. Billy Watkins of Granville, and Mr. Allen had all explained the situation. It was the Speaker's time.

"Now, I will answer some of the questions I have been asked by the press," he began. "Did I ask Mr. Lilley to make his motion to return the bill to Finance... the answer is no. Did I know he was going to make that motion... the answer is yes. Am I happy at the way this turned out... the answer is yes."

So, everybody was happy and the newcomers to the House membership got a lesson in what can happen when communications break down.

The other little test of power politics brought to an abrupt close a maneuver by Rep. Ted Kaplan of Forsyth to stall a local Caldwell County bill hoping to influence Sen. Don Kincaid to change his opinion of ERA. That one didn't work because the Gentleman from Forsyth had a similar bill in the Senate and immediately noted that it had been sent off to Senator Kincaid's committee. What's sauce for the goose - etc., works in legislation, also.

Rep. Dave Bumgardner, Jr., of Gaston, serves on the Board of Transportation which is somewhat out of favor with many legislators this term. However, his little bill to set a 45-miles-per-hour speed limit on unpaved roads had nothing to do with his other official duties but he ran into some problems. All of the counties with miles and miles of unpaved roads arose to oppose the bill. They even began to chide the gentleman about the conditions of some of the paved roads in their district pointing out that, in many cases, the unpaved roads were in better shape than some of the paved ones. Then there were some of the members who wanted to get into the cost of posting speed limit signs.

"Just how much would it cost the Department of Transportation to place just one speed limit sign on one of these roads," Rep. Ron Taylor of Bladen wanted to know.

"Well, that depends," the Gaston legislator began. "It depends on the type of sign, the terrain and whether there is a pickup truck with one man working and 10 men watching."

This caused some applause from the members and the Gentleman from Bladen said: "You said it. I didn't."

Department heads and secretaries often have to appeal for days on end before appropriations subcommittees while their budgets are under consideration and subject themselves to close questioning. Then they are followed by others — "fresh meat" in the legislative lingo.

The Appropriations Committee on Public Safety, Crime Control, Corrections and the Judiciary had been working over Atty. Gen. Rufus Edmisten and Sec. Burley Mitchell for several days. Then it came time for Bert Montague, of the administrative office of the Courts, to explain his budget.

"Mr. Chairman," the Gentleman from Iredell said as Montague was presented, "I am glad to note that we have some fresh meat for today. What I want to know is if Montague is anything like barbecue?"

Montague said he hoped he would be better.

Rep. Brad Ligon of Rowan is fast becoming known as "Representative No" and now

he has come up with a bill to restrict the amount of money lobbyists can spend. The same day the bill was filed for introduction the Gentleman from Rowan was near the head of the food line at an elaborate reception and dinner given at the Civic Center to honor members of the General Assembly by the N. C. Society of Accountants. The next day Rep. Tom Ellis of Vance said a lobbyist came by his office and handed him one peanut instead of the usual handful. "We are already beginning to comply with Rep. Ligon's bill," was his comment.

Rep. A. D. Guy of Onslow found a note on his desk to call Pembroke College and was puzzled. Pembroke College is not in his district but he dialed the number. When the telephone was answered the Onslow lawmaker soon realized he was not the person that caller wanted to talk to so he tried to explain.

"I'm not Guy. I'm Guy," he said and realized at once that did not tell the story so he tried again. "I'm Guy, not Guy," was his next effort and that did not do the job. Finally he got through by agreeing to assist by giving the caller the office and telephone number of Rep. William C. Gay of Lumberton.

Richard Petty, champion race driver of Randolph County, sent his wife to argue the Republican side of a Randolph County partisan battle which has developed and which resulted in a public hearing Wednesday. She asked that he be treated the same as his fellow county commissioners. The bill, which has passed the Senate, would require Randolph County to elect its county commissioners by districts. Petty is one of five members of the all Republican board. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Russell Walker of Asheboro, State Democratic Party chairman. It was amended in the Senate to allow Petty to run again when his term expires but would prevent three others to do the same.

The House Committee on Election Laws reported the bill out favorably and it came up for a vote Friday when debate was along partisan lines since the two representatives from Randolph are Republicans. But, over the objection of the entire Republican delegation in the House, the bill passed and, of course, the vote was also along partisan lines.

Usually local bills have little opposition but Rep. Louise Brennan of Mecklenburg was having a little trouble with her local bill Friday morning, also. Rep. Mary Pegg of Forsyth spoke at length in oppositions trying to show small contractors were being discriminated against. Then several members asked the

Lady from Mecklenburg if her bill affected any other city, town or county.

"I want to be sure that I understood you. This bill does not affect Buncombe County or any town in my district, does it?" questioned Rep. Gordon Greenwood.

"Not unless we annex you," quipped Mrs. Brennan.

Sen. Julian Allsbrook of Halifax is not noted for lack of words. As a matter of fact, it has often been said when the Gentleman begins to speak on the floor of the Senate, a filibuster is in progress. However, Tuesday he was speechless.

The senator was celebrating his 78th birthday and his secretary planned and prepared a surprise party for him in his second-floor office.

Senior Activities Slated

The following activities will be held at the Perquimans County Senior Citizens Center located on Grubb Street in Hertford:

The Perquimans County Senior Center will sponsor a crochet class starting Monday, March 2, 2-4 P.M. The teacher will be Mrs.

- March 2 Crafts Class
 - March 3 Memory Lane Show and Tell
 - March 4 Exercise Class
 - March 6 Sing-a-long Kitchen Band
 - March 9 Crafts Class
 - March 10 Friendship Club Meeting
 - March 11 Exercise Class
 - March 12 Belvidere Club Meeting
 - March 13 Home Extension Program
 - March 16 Crafts Class
 - March 18 Memory Lane Club Meeting
 - March 18 Exercise Class
 - March 20 Memory Lane Show and Tell
 - March 23 Crafts Class
 - March 24 Tour of Don Juan Factory
 - March 25 Exercise
 - March 27 Ray Winslow (Historical Program)
 - March 30 Crafts Class
- Perquimans County Quilting Club

"He was so surprised he was speechless," she reported. "It was really worth the trouble to see him speechless for the first time."

Gov. James B. Hunt and family are regular worshippers at White Memorial Presbyterian Church and each Sunday the pastor, Dr. Edwin H. Pickard, in his morning prayer asks the Lord to bless the governor. This happens every Sunday and the congregation has taken note. The other Sabbath morning a member of the congregation greeted another by commenting on the fact and wondered why the governor was standing in so much need from the Man upstairs.

"Maybe he knows something we don't know," was the parting comment.

Parking in this city is a major problem, especially around the government complex. Assigned parking places are prized above a raise in pay. When a lot is designed a "tow zone" you can believe it. They are no respecter of persons, either.

Recently Zeb Alley, former senator and currently serving as Gov. Hunt's liaison with the legislature, decided to fly to his home in Waynesville for the weekend and had an aide drive

him to the airport. The associate was to return Alley's car to his assigned parking place and leave it until the owner returned. However, when he started looking for his car Monday when he returned it was not in the assigned place. He went to report it stolen and found it had been parked in the wrong place, in a tow zone, and his vehicle was in custody.

The gentleman paid the tow charges and claimed his car with a red face.

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Comfortable home located in historic district within walking distance of Edenton. Four bedrooms, two baths, family room with fireplace, kitchen. The home you have been waiting for.

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This frame home would make a second home. Consists of three bedrooms, living room, kitchen, and bath. Priced for immediate sale.

A Family Pleaser

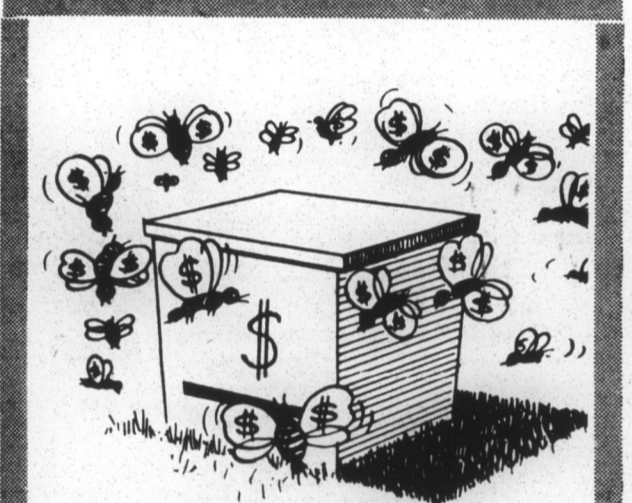
Live in very attractive two-story brick home and enjoy income from adjoining duplex. Consists of 5,500 square feet of living space, including six bedrooms, living room with fireplace, den with fireplace, dining room with fireplace, two full baths, garage with workshop. Completely renovated to include all modern conveniences. In historic district within walking distance to shopping, schools and churches.

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Attends Conference

Gil Johnson, E.I.C. Section VIII housing director took an active part in the Fifth National Conference on Rural America held in Washington, D.C., February 8-10.

More than 1,000 rural leaders from all corners of the United States attended the conference.

Conference participants drew up a platform for rural Americans dealing with such subjects as: rural housing and community development; problems facing rural women, the rural elderly and hired farmworkers; ownership and control of land and water resources; rural health and medical care; and rural public transportation.

The conference was sponsored by Rural America, a national membership organization formed in 1975 to represent the interests of people in small towns and rural areas.

Johnson said he could not over emphasize the importance of people getting involved particularly in the programs that effect them

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