

# Raleigh Roundup: Legislators Now Playing Hurry Up And Wait Game

Continued From Page 5-B  
knew the answer to that one. But to get back to the proposed constitutional amendment. It was sent to a Judiciary Committee to rest until the next session.



**HARRIS CONCERT** — Emmylou Harris, the "Blue Kentucky Girl" who has become one of country music's popular song stylists, will present two concerts at The Old Country, Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Va., Friday. The shows, scheduled for 6 P. M. and 8 P. M., will be presented in the park's Three Musketeers Theater, located in the France Section of The Old Country.

Rep. Martin Lancaster of Wayne arose to introduce the doctor of the day Thursday and prefaced his remarks with an account of some personal experiences. "When I introduced the doctor of the day several weeks ago I told you he had delivered by second child. Today I want to introduce you to the doctor who delivered my first child." Of course, he didn't figure out for awhile why there were snickers in his aisle but the doctor was extended the courtesy of the gallery by the speaker and members welcomed him with applause.

Several weeks ago Rep. Richard Wright of Columbus had handled a bill on the floor of the house which would provide protection for certain state officials. It was back on the calendar this week for concurrence with a senate amendment. "The committee handling this measure added the house speaker and president of the senate; the senate added all legislators, and in view of events which took place recently, I move, Mr. Speaker that we concur with the senate amendment," he said. The gentleman was referring to the incident several evenings ago when a group of legislators were returning from Alamance County, where they attended an outdoor drama, and one of the buses and a legislator's car were either pelted with rocks or shot at. No one was injured but slivers of glass came into the bus and the back of the car was damaged. Constituents' feeling must be running higher than we thought! After many months a Congressional Redistricting

bill made it to the floor of the house and the speaker was trying to get members to take their seats "for important legislation". He banged the gavel and said: "Take your seats and hang on."

The bill was being handled by Rep. Jay Huskins of Iredell, committee chairman, who began by saying, "Buckle your seat belts, not because a blow is coming on, but to protect yourself from your neighbor." He was referring to the heated discussions which had taken place in his committee as plan after plan had been presented and voted down during the many weeks of meetings. "I knew there were political snakes in the grass, but I never thought they'd be so small," he said as he explained the attitude had been "don't do it to me."

At this time a conference committee is drawing maps

and before the week is out both houses are expected to be faced with a redistricting of the 11 congressional districts in the state. Kimberly Ann Smith of Raleigh, America's Junior Miss, was escorted to the floor of the house Wednesday by the Wake delegation and had kind words for her state and city. As she was leaving the chamber Rep. "Pap" Creecy of Northampton, arose and asked permission to shake her hand. As the young beauty held her hand toward the gentleman the speaker said, "The lady is willing."

"Someone left some glasses on my desk. I am sure they need them," Rep. Allen Barbee announced the other day. "If they belong to the legislator I think they do, he sure needs them," quipped the speaker. That "little" bill which would allow counties to impose a 1 per cent sales tax, did not just sail through the house. It came up for debate Monday evening and generated considerable debate. Rep. Charles Evans of Dare was floor manager and he beat off a number of amendments one of which was to make it mandatory that the tax be voted on by the people in referendum. Rep. George Hux of Halifax, still smarting from the imposition of the 3-cent gasoline tax, arose to oppose the amendment. "I want county commissioners to have the responsibility just like we had last week on the gas tax. The people did not vote on that and if they had it wouldn't have passed. If they need the tax let them take the responsibility and put it on," he concluded.

That amendment drew so much comment that when the Gentleman from Dare called the question on the amendment, Speaker Liston Ramsey said, "I thought it was going to be October before we voted on the amendment." Some people just don't know when to quit. Rep. Douglas Clark of Duplin wouldn't give up on one of his election laws measures and Monday evening sent up an amendment which Rep. Parks Helms of Mecklenburg thought sounded familiar. "Rep. Clark, isn't this the same amendment which was defeated by a vote of 75-35 Friday?" he wanted to know. "This is the amendment that was tabled Friday, which is worse," the sponsor admitted. He didn't fare any better. It went down 24 to 85.

## Special Insurance Program

"Preserving and protecting our heritage is progress," said Atty. Gen. Rufus Edmisten about a special insurance program now available in North Carolina which "will make owning our state's historic homes more appealing than before." In letters to historic preservation boards, commissions and individuals, Edmisten delineated the new residential insurance coverage in laymen's language with special emphasis on qualification standards, value assessments and protection needs, such as those for homes that are opened for public viewing. Following requests for the coverage from historic groups, Edmisten proposed to the state insurance department that it be made available. "I'm gratified by their (N. C. Department of Insurance) response. This is another example of how important it is for all state officials to identify and carry out their preservation responsibilities." Basic qualification for coverage requires that the residence be occupied, in good repair and listed or nominated for listing in the National Register or located in a historic district. "Tearing down houses because they are old is not progress," Edmisten said. "We need to recognize the symbiotic value of restored homes in neighborhoods of newer ones. The availability of this much-needed home owner's insurance will certainly help."

## Daniels Assumes Post

Sen. Melvin R. Daniels, Jr., D-Pasquotank, has been selected as a member of the Southern Legislative Council's Transportation Committee. In making the appointment, Senate President Pro Tem W. Craig Lawing stated that it was important to the State of North Carolina that the Legislature be fully and ably represented on this regional council which will be dealing with federal aid highway legislation, rural transportation, and methods of efficiency for state transportation departments. Sen. Lawing observed that Sen. Daniels is indeed well qualified to serve on this regional council for along with his 25 years of business experience, his is a graduate engineer with 2 1/2 years experience in the Engineering Department of the N. C. Department of Transportation. Sen. Daniels commented that he was pleased to be appointed to the Southern Legislative Council and that he looked forward to working with the members of the Council in an effort to learn ways to improve North Carolina's transportation programs.

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