The Carolina Review: Tax Bill

get over here. Ken's dropped continue year after year). a bombshell," chided one

Kenneth Royal, D-Durham, another one per cent on the "Four per cent sales tax-no tax on food."

Until last Friday, drunk drivers and a big tax on their with a growing list of state needs, real or imagined. In everywhere that more money was needed for everything.

The Departments of Commerce, Natural Resources ment, and Human Resources, all have been calling for rebuild, and repair deteriorating water and sewer systems across the

Transportation officials have for months been discussing an almost certain loss of federal matching funds if more roads money isn't found.

In education, leaders from every segment have been wringing their hands.

Most lawmakers were just shaking their heads "no."

"To be truthful, I don't know how we're going to find support because it's doing the \$100 million just to lift the salary freeze," complained one senator last week.

Rep. Jay Huskins, D-Iredell, found a way-a one per cent increase in the state sales tax, forty per cent of which would go to the general fund. At least \$100 million of that added revenue, and probably more, could be used for kept this bill to himselfstate employee raises. Not surprisingly, Huskins' bill has not snowballed. Although ly with a couple of finance anything is possible when state employees are lobbying research office. Apparently for money, few legislators not even the governor or

MORE TAX, NO TAX..."If have really warmed up to in- lieutenant governor were aptyou're writing a column about creasing sales taxes for a pay the legislature, you'd better raise (spending that would

Ken Royal's bill is different. It takes away, but it gives Indeed. Senate stalwart back. Royal would add someone said. had introduced, without war- state sales tax (3% to 4%), but is a no-run-again deal." Vernon James

ning, a bill "to be entitled 'An eventually he wouldn't tax Act to Enact the North food at all. The bill also in-Carolina Anti-Recession creases the motor vehicle Public Works and Tax Equi- sales tax by one per cent (2% ty Act of 1983." Translated, to 3%) and increases the vehicle sales tax limit from \$120.00 to \$300.00.

The senator's secret is to add the extra one per cent alcoholic drink seemed to be right away, then remove the the only talk in Raleigh. food tax gradually, over Behind the scenes though, several years. The formula lawmakers were grappling makes for big money now-\$230 million this upcoming fiscal year and \$200 the various appropriations million the next. Later, as the subcommittees, legislators food tax totally expires hearing from (1986-87), the new revenues would fall to a still respectable \$135 million.

Royal's new money could be used immediately in nonand Community Develop- recurring (one-time cost) expenses like water and sewer treatment plants, new capital monies to build, schools, highways and bridges, and overdue building repairs.

Friday, senators were talking about Royal's bill.

"It's good because it addresses a problem we haven't even been able to look at seriously with the money situation, local capital needs in the schools and water treatment. I like it."

"His idea has a lot of merit. If it didn't have a lot of merit, Ken royal wouldn't have offered it.'

"It's going to get a lot of away with the food tax."

"A lot of people have said we need some money to address these needs, but he's the only one to offer something."

"It's a good idea, no matter who offered it, but the fact that Royal did...well, that sure won't hurt it."

Interestingly, Ken Royal running it by a few close associates and working closepeople in the legislative fiscal

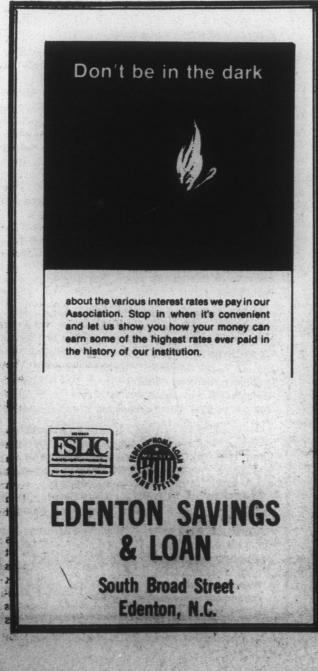
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Lifesaver Says Student Safety Is A Top Priority

RALEIGH-Col. Charles A. forewarned. lawmakers just found it on their desks Friday morning. "This is the kind of stuff a ing safety program's top governor's race is made of," "No," Royal laughed, "this Heel pupils who ride school

Is Recognized

tion by the N.C. Soybean Pro-

ducers Association and the

N.C. Soybean Industry. This

award was presented at the

annual meeting of the N.C.

In addition to being ap-

pointed chairman of the

Agriculture Committee, Rep.

James has been appointed

vice chairman of the Constitu-

tional Amendments and

Water & Air Resources Com-

mittees; and a member of the

Commercial Fishing, Public

Utilities, Rules and Transpor-

tation Committees: also the

Appropriations Base Budget

and Appropriations Expan-

sion Budget dealing with

Natural and Economic

The 29-member House

Agriculture Committee held

it's first meeting on Tuesday,

January 25, 1983 with Chair-

presiding. This meeting was

to acquaint the new commit-

tee with the North Carolina

Department of Agriculture.

Members of the Department

of Agriculture were present

and Commissioner Jim

Graham spoke briefly. There

was a slide presentation on

Developing New Domestic

and Overseas Markets for

morning and afternoon.

Pregnancy

Counseling

Children's Home Society more available to all individuals who may need

"By having a toll free number, it saves the young person the cost of a phone call and doesn't leave a record on their phone bill," said Betty Gibson, assistant executive director of the agency. "It's a question of confidentiality and makes the already available services more accessible." Although young women will be the primary users of the new number, there are many young men who may want to talk to someone to find out what their options and respon-

Many times, a young

woman may think she is preg-

nant and just need someone to

help her sort out her alter-

natives. Last year, The Children's Home Society was

contacted by 409 persons seeking counceling about a

Caseworkers do not attempt to make decisions for young women, but inform

them of all their choices and help them feel comfortable about the alternative they

Persons calling the toll free number will reach a

caseworker in Greensboro who will talk to the young per-son and make a referal to the

nearest area office of The

Children's Home Society. A

staff member in that arca will Continued On Page 8-B

problem pregnancy.

sibilities are.

legislation.

Products.

Vernon James,

Soybean Association.

when trains narrowly missed hitting buses at Apex and Pelham and on Jan. 14 when On Friday, January 21, 32 students were injured in a 1983, Representative Vernon James was presented a pla-Jacksonville. que for outstanding contribu-

'School buses in North more than 20,000 times a day," Speed said, "and the frightening.

"A simple, but very valuable, lesson can be learned from the near misses in Wake and Caswell counties lesson is that the grade crossing is the most dangerous

long said that the grade cross- sure every school bus driver Vehicles," he said. in North Carolina comes to a priority is protecting the hun-full stop, looks both ways, and dreds of thousands of Tar listens before driving across the tracks," Speed said.

The former commander of earlier in the school year urges officials in all 143 school districts to permit "We STOP At RR Crossings" bumper Railroad Crossings; bus-train collision near dashboard labels to be placed on their buses.

"These devices are free and Carolina cross railroad tracks are constant reminders to bus drivers and the motoring public that state law requires potential of many multiple- school buses to stop at grade fatality collisions occurring is crossings," Speed said. They are available from him at: Box D-25801, Raleigh, NC 27611-5801; telephone 919/787-5739

Speed recommends other and the tragic accident in specific measures to Onslow," he continued. "That strengthen school bus safety at grade crossings.

"One is to make sure that

"A second measure is to open." conduct programs on grade

crossing safety in the schools," Speed said. "Every drivers, parents, teachers and program under way since last His view was reinforced the N.C. Highway Patrol year, shortly before school others should tune in to the summer. "What they have starts, I send letters to all state's eduational network on done should be done superintendents advising that Jan. 27 and Feb. 3 at 8:35 A.M. everywhere," he said.

> at any hour of the day may numbers and topics are listed Topics covered in the tape use the new Internal Revenue in Publication 910, "Tax- series include filing reassistance program, called payer's Guide to IRS Infor- quirements, itemized deduc-"Tele-Tax." The recorded information service is available to tax-

payers with pushbutton telephones 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year long, the IRS said. To use any of the 141 tapes, the taxpayer calls one of these

four numbers: Charlotte (704) 371-6352, Greensboro (919) 378-5172, Raleigh - (919) place on the highway, where every bus driver views the ex- 755-1498, and Winston-Salem trains cannot stop in time, but cellent slide presentation, (919) 761-3136. Recorded inbusses and other vehicles can. 'Precious Cargo,' at least structions will be given as

not. The offer is always

RALEIGH—Col. Charles A. "It is incumbent on all of usonce a year. It is available our Operation Lifesaver films and on Feb. 24 at 1:45 P.M., he Speed, executive director of educators, parents, students from traffic safety educators in and speakers are available said. "Three of the best films N.C. Operation Lifesaver, has and public officials-to make the N.C. Division of Motor without charge. Some take we use in Operation Lifesaver me up on this, but many do will be shown on those dates."

Finally, Speed said that officials in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools have In the meantime, bus had an extensive bus safety

stickers and "STOP At All New IRS Service For State Taxpayers GREENSBORO-North how to punch in the tape Publication 1163, Tele Tax,"

mation and Assistance," or tions, tax credits,

Carolina taxpayers who need number desired. Access both free from IRS and at answers to their tax questions telephone numbers, tape many banks and libraries.

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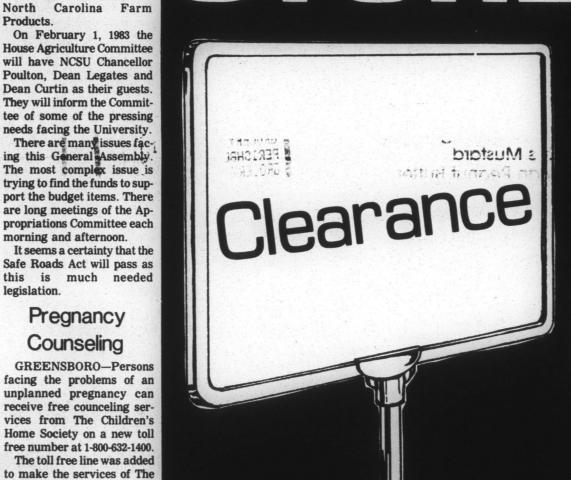
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