

Post Mortem Of The 1969 N. C. General Assembly

As Reported by the Institute of Government

The Legislative Institution

The 1969 General Assembly will be remembered as a source of many innovations in legislative institutions and processes. Two new data processing systems spewed forth computerized bills and video vignettes of legislative progress. A third experimental project was tested for computerized bill indexing. An important first step was taken toward strengthening legislative staffing by the creation of a new position of Administrative Officer of the General Assembly.

Breaking with a long tradition of a multitude of standing committees, chaired largely by non-repeating chairmen, President Taylor and Speaker Vaughn made significant alterations this session, reducing the number of committees and placing greater stress on continuity of chairmanships. They also restructured the Appropriations Committees, dividing them initially into four subcommittees along subject matter lines. In doing so, they sought to involve more members meaningfully in the budget-making process and to meet objections of control of the budget by a small group of members.

Several other measures looking toward more fundamental change received serious consideration but did not pass. Foremost among these were three proposed Constitutional amendments -- to grant the veto power to the Governor, to permit the Governor to serve two terms (either of which would have significantly affected the legislative as well as the executive branch), and to provide for annual legislative sessions. A proposal for a

Legislative Fiscal Research Agency (or "watchdog group", as it came to be known) received strong support from the House, even to the extent of being tacked onto an unrelated proposal for a Legislative Services Commission, but the Senate failed to approve it. The Legislative Services Commission itself, which will oversee the administrative and clerical operations of the Assembly, was enacted into law.

As the session drew to a close the Assembly created a Legislative Citizens Advisory Committee to undertake a thorough examination of the legislative institution -- which assures, if nothing else, the continuation of the ferment which has been activated this year, into the 1971 session. The Assembly also assigned over two dozen separate subjects to be studied by the Legislative Research Commission or independent study commissions or State agencies in preparation for the 1971 Session.

In terms of volume and duration the 1969 General Assembly left most of its predecessors in the shade. It set an all-time record for length of session -- running for a total of 176 calendar days or 121 weekday sessions plus one working Saturday, far outdistancing the 1967 mark of 106 weekday sessions. And it set a new modern record for the number of bills introduced of 2347, eclipsing the 30-year record of 2184 set in 1967. In this century only some early 1930's sessions overflowed this high water mark (the highest, 2469 in 1933).

Local Government

One of the hardest working study groups active between the 1967 and

1969 sessions was the Local Government Study Commission. When the 1969 session convened, this Commission was perhaps best prepared of all the major study groups to introduce and forward bills to implement its proposals. As a result, legislation concerning local government held the limelight much of the time during the early weeks of the session; and continued to hold its own throughout the spring. This unusual focus on local government was stimulated by the home rule proposals of the Local Government Study Commission, invol-

ving recommendations to repeal local exemptions from general enabling laws, to let localities determine their own government organization and the salaries of their officials, and to authorize county commissioners to adopt regulatory ordinances.

In the process of its consideration many questions involving state and local relationships were seriously examined and debated for the first time in recent legislative annals. A substantial part of the Study Commission's home rule package was enacted without significant change-including

legislation relating to county ordinance-making powers, selection and compensation of city and county governing boards, uniform statewide fees for registers of deeds, and county officials' salaries. Another major item in the Study Commission's and the Governor's program, was an act creating a new State Department of Local Affairs, and a companion measure relating to State and regional planning. A significant effect of the home rule package was its impact on the volume of local bills, both in the current session and projected into future

years. Working counter to the current of the heaviest volume of bills volume this year declined noticeably -- a tribute to the effect of the new home rule legislation. Local bill volume this year was lower than 1967 and the average for previous sessions, this decade, both absolutely and proportionately. Local bill volume for 1969 fell to just 30% of bills introduced, continuing and accelerating a trend of the last four sessions -- down from almost 50% local bills in 1961.

(To Be Continued Tuesday)

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Franklin Is One Of 53 Units In State With Total Integration

The Franklin County administrative school unit is one of 53 in North Carolina with 100 percent integration, according to information released by the State Department of Public Instruction this week. The county unit ranks fifth in the number of Negro students attending integrated schools. The Franklinton City unit, with 58.94 percent of enrollment Negro has 21.36 percent integration.

The report shows that the Franklin County unit had a total enrollment of 5,284 pupils last year of which 3,112 were Negro. This represents 58.90 percent of the total with the county unit listed as 100 percent integrated. Franklinton City had a total enrollment of 1,549 of which 913 are Negro. Franklinton had 195 Negroes attending integrated schools.

Four units in the state have more Negroes attending integrated schools although none of the four are totally integrated. Mecklenburg County has the largest number. The report lists a total enrollment of 83,111 students of which 15,401 are Negroes attending integrated schools. The unit's percentage against the total is 63.53.

Fayetteville, Gaston and Forsyth, follow. Fayetteville has 80.47 percent total integration, Gaston has 88.01 percent and Forsyth has only 29.13 percent.

Beaufort and Chowan units are

Patrol Car Wrecked

From The Henderson Daily Dispatch

At 12:30 a.m. Sunday on U. S. 1, two miles south of Kittrell, a patrol auto operated by Trooper C. G. Todd, Jr., who is stationed in Louisburg, and an auto driven by Richard Henry Hicks, 24, of Raleigh, were in collision and each vehicle received about \$500 in damages, reported Sgt. R. I. Weatherbee, the investigating officer. No serious injuries were indicated.

Both were headed south on U. S. 1 at the time, with Hicks attempting a left turn into State Road 1555 just as the trooper started to pass. Sgt. Weatherbee explained that his investigation showed Trooper Todd was in pursuit of an unidentified speeding motorist and had his siren and blue light in operation as he approached behind the vehicle driven by Hicks. Information was that Hicks pulled to the right as if to yield to the patrol auto but then suddenly turned sharply left to State Road 1555 just as Trooper Todd began to pass around the Hicks auto, and the collision resulted, Sgt. Weatherbee pointed out.

The patrol car veered to the left in an effort to avoid the crash and came to a halt in a grassy area between U. S. 1 and Seaboard Coast Line Railroad tracks, while the impact spun Hicks' car around in the highway. Following the investigation Hicks was charged with failure to see that movement could be made in safety.

Fifth In Negro Enrollment

closest to the Franklin County situation of any of the 157 units in the state. Beaufort is 100 percent integrated and has 2,397 Negro students out of a total of 5,041 for a 47.55 percent ratio of Negro to white enrollment. Chowan, also 100 percent integrated, has a total enrollment of 3,036, of which 1,716 are Negro for a ratio of 56.52 percent or the closest to that of the Franklin unit.

The Cherokee and Graham school units report no Negro enrollment at all. Cherokee has 1,220 students and Graham has 1,553. Clay County has 100 percent integration with only four Negro students among a total enrollment of 1,187. Mitchell County, also 100 percent integrated, has nine Negro students in its total enrollment of 2,930.

Hyde County, scene of heated racial troubles in recent months, has 17 Negro students attending integrated schools out of a total Negro enrollment of 71 the past year. The total enrollment in Hyde including both races is 689. Negroes have boycotted the schools and this is reflected in the Hyde totals for the year.

Anson County, scene of racial tensions over schools in recent years, has 1,233 Negroes attending integrated schools out of a total Negro enrollment of 3,698 and a total of both races reaching 6,304. Anson is 33.34 percent integrated.

Neighboring units have fared somewhat better than Franklin in that most have been given more time to fully integrate their systems. Warren County is listed as 13.96 percent integrated; Vance has 26.84 percent integration; Granville has 16.79 and Nash has 20.65. Wake, largest of the neighbors, is listed as having 23.51 percent integration. Raleigh City has 21.47 percent.

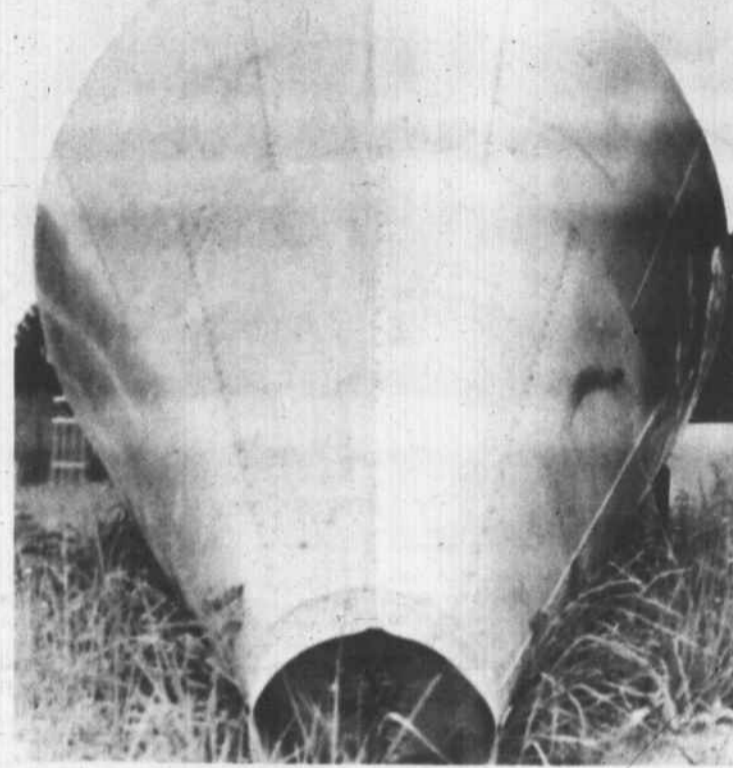
Patients Go To Umstead

The North Carolina State Department of Mental Health has announced that, effective July 1, 1969, all alcoholic and mental status admissions to state mental hospitals from Franklin County will be handled by John Umstead Hospital at Biltmore, North Carolina.

In accordance with this transfer, Franklin County will be transferred from the South Central Mental Health Region to the North Central Mental Health Region which includes Vance, Warren, Granville and several other counties in the north central part of North Carolina.

Patients admitted to Dorothea Dix Hospital before July 1, 1969, will not be transferred to John Umstead until after September 1, 1969.

For information concerning the change of jurisdiction or proper admission procedures, call the Family Counseling and Education Center, 496-4111, or the Clerk of Court's office at 496-5104.



Going To The Moon?

Men will be going to the moon next week, riding a contraption similar to that shown above. However, they will not be using this one. While shaped somewhat like a command module space ship, the object is actually what is called a "hopper" and will be installed along with several others at the new Rishel Furniture plant here. A blower will carry sawdust and wood waste into the hoppers for later disposal, according to explanation of the uses of the peculiarly shaped objects. But, couldn't some moon-struck youngster have a ball with one in his back yard?

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

History Group Meet Ends Here Today

The 125 delegates from nine southern states will conclude the annual meeting of the Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church here today at Louisburg College with a special service conducted by Rev. William E. Brooks of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. and Reports of the Conference Societies.

The group has been meeting on the college campus for the past three days and has visited historical Green Hill house, owned by Mr. and Mrs. George Davis just outside Louisburg and a side tour to neighboring Halifax county.

Wednesday's session heard an address by Rev. Gordon Melton of Birmingham, Alabama in which he urged those present to "aid the church's confrontation in the present with the great issues".

"We must not sit by silently," said the Rev. Melton. "We historians are only the church when we aid the church in proclaiming her Lord in the midst of a world gone mad," he said. "We are called not to witness to history but through history and by history to witness to Jesus whom we call the Christ."

The program got underway Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the library building with Dr. Harold H. Hughes of Annandale, Virginia, president of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History, presiding. The afternoon program included: Devotion by Rev. H. Fred Edge, Shennandoah, Virginia; Reports; Addresses by Bishop Harmon and Dr. Robbins; and a display of Materials on Green Hill by Rev. Brooks Little.

That evening, Dr. Rives discussed "Early Methodism in the Halifax Area." Rev. C. Frank Grill of Fayetteville led the devotion.

Wednesday morning Dr. Potts discussed "Personalities at the First Annual Conference held at Green Hill House, April 1784". At 10:00 a.m. the group visited Green Hill House (1 mile

west of Louisburg), which is one of the 12 Shrines of American Methodism. Here, Charles Davis, a descendant of Green Hill, addressed the group on Green Hill and the Green Hill House. Following this service, the delegates visited historic Whitakers Chapel in Halifax County where the first Annual Conference of Methodist Protestant Church was held in 1830. Picnic lunch, a business session, and a service of Holy Communion rounded out the program at Whitakers Chapel.

Wednesday evening, Dr. Ness spoke on "Bishop Milton Wright, A Man of Conviction."

Franklinton Fixes Tax Rate At \$1.75

The Franklinton Town Commissioners tentatively adopted the 1969-70 budget Monday and set the tax rate at \$1.75 per \$100 valuation. The new budget totals \$227,043.28.

Water and Sewer take the largest bite with a budget of \$59,104.15 followed by the Street Department with \$44,132.60.

Administrative Expenses will receive \$37,483.45 and the Police Department is budgeted at \$33,074.86 followed in size by the \$11,981.46 allotted to the Fire Department.

Other items include Professional fees, \$1,600; Cemetery, \$900; Civil Defense and Auxiliary Police, \$1,500; Community House and Recreation, \$4,959 and the Rescue Squad, \$800. The Debt Service will take \$31,507.76 from this year's outlay.

An itemized budget is on record in the clerk's office for public inspection.

School Case Expected To Be Heard This Month

Members of the Franklin County Board of Education and Superintendent Warren W. Smith are expected to learn their fate sometimes this month in the latest in a long-list of appearances in federal court. The five members and Smith are charged with contempt of court involving five court orders, which the U. S. Justice Department and the NAACP claim the six men violated.

The charges were lodged last January 15 in a surprise move by the plaintiffs in the case and the plaintiff intervenor, the U. S. Department of Justice. The move caught the Board by surprise inasmuch as Board members felt the system had accomplished total integration last fall.

The Justice Department filed charges first claiming the Board was operating an integrated school system with segregated classes. The NAACP filed similar charges a few days later. The Board issued a prepared statement following the charges in which it denied any discrimination in the system and termed the charges a form of harassment against the Board and the people of the county.

In February, the Board filed a motion seeking to clarify the charges and two other motions and some objections were also filed. A hearing was set before federal Judge Algeron Butler for March 19, but was later changed to April 8.

At this hearing, the government was ordered to release the FBI report compiled after an investigation by that agency here and the Board was ordered not to release the contents of the report. The Board was also ordered at that hearing to allow the government to come in and copy certain records pertaining to the assignment of students to classrooms.

It was during this hearing held in Judge Butler's chambers in Clinton that the federal jurist reportedly said that he would hole the full-scale trial of the case in June or July. At the time, he set up a schedule which called for the completion of exchanges of information between the plaintiffs and the Board not later than April 28 and scheduled an attorney's conference for May 2 for the purpose of setting up a schedule for taking depositions. Depositions were to have been completed June 15.

Both sides have spent several days here in the Board of Education office taking depositions from local wit-

nesses. The court has said it will allow five witnesses for each side at the time of the trial.

Board attorney E. F. Yarborough said earlier this week that he has had no indication as to when the case will be called. He said the Board will be allowed ten days from the call before the actual trial starts.

Included in the charges against the Board is an attack against a Board policy of charging tuition for out-of-county students. The policy is based on a ruling by the N. C. Attorney General and the State agency has entered the case in defense of the policy. The Attorney General has filed a brief in the case but no decision has yet been announced by Judge Butler on whether or not the State will be allowed to present arguments in the case.

The Board's policy last year was to assign students to classrooms based on a reading test administered the year before to all students, according to an explanation by the Board. In some instances this resulted in segregated classrooms. This and some resulting segregation in some homeroom classes in the system is believed to have prompted the January charges. The Board was left with only nine days to totally desegregate the system last year after exhausting all avenues of appeal.

The original case against the Board was filed in December of 1965 by eleven Negro parents following the Board refusal to assign 31 Negro students to predominantly white schools under a lateral transfer provision of a federally approved plan of desegregation. Ten Negro students were assigned that year to predominantly white schools under the Board's plan calling for integration of four grades under a freedom of choice plan.

Since the initial start of the case, the Board has attended nine hearings, two full-scale trials plus two special trips to Washington. Attorneys for the Board have attended these and several more conferences with federal lawyers and other government officials. The Board has also met at least six other times with representatives of the NAACP. In July, 1967, Judge Butler killed freedom of choice in the county and in August, 1968 ordered total integration.

Board attorneys and members are understandably quiet as to any speculation on the outcome of the current charges.

Valuation By Townships

TOWNSHIP	TOTAL VALUE	EXCESS	GRAND TOTAL
Dunn	\$5,318,098	\$1,091,265	\$6,409,363
Harris	4,229,588		4,229,588
Youngsville	3,999,063	224,990	4,244,053
Franklinton	9,667,339	621,645	10,288,984
Hayesville	2,754,059		2,754,059
Sandy Creek	3,127,448		3,127,448
Gold Mine	2,222,002		2,222,002
Cedar Rock	4,164,933		4,164,933
Cypress Creek	1,768,400		1,768,400
Louisburg	14,057,281	458,371	14,515,652
Totals	\$51,308,211	\$2,396,271	\$53,704,482

Tax Rates By Townships

TAX RATE BY TOWNSHIP	COUNTY WIDE RATE	SPECIAL SCHOOL	TOTAL RATE
Dunn	\$1.85		\$1.85
Harris	\$1.85		\$1.85
Youngsville	\$1.85		\$1.85
Franklinton	\$1.85	\$.31	\$2.16
Hayesville	\$1.85		\$1.85
Sandy Creek	\$1.85		\$1.85
Gold Mine	\$1.85		\$1.85
Cedar Rock	\$1.85		\$1.85
Cypress Creek	\$1.85		\$1.85
Louisburg	\$1.85	\$.20	\$2.05