

Referendum Unlikely After Wine Measure

Capital Gossip

By HENRY AVERILL AND LYN NESBET

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel.

Raleigh, Feb. 21.—Indicating the increasing importance of aviation in our social and economic order, Senator Roy Hovey, principal champion of flying in the Senate, has for introduction of a state-wide liquor referendum bill.

The bill will be strengthened if the Senate concurs and the wine measure is enacted into law without material amendment.

This viewpoint is summed up about like this: Speaker Odus Mills, when he took the floor on the wine bill Wednesday, flatly threatened ABC advocates with a referendum fight if they did not get behind the wine bill without weakening changes. While he did not say so in just those words he impliedly promised that he would not himself go to work for a referendum if political wine were outlawed.

Certainly the House members from ABC counties who voted almost solidly against the "Czech amendment" believed that to be the situation—otherwise the Roman representatives' saving clause for "it, energy," and some other named wines would have mustered more than eight votes on a roll call.

As it was, the only important defection from the ABC ranks was Libby Ward, and there are many who think the former speaker was only illustrating his loyalty to a friend. Two years ago John Caffey of Guilford, was next to Bill Finner, the man most responsible for Ward's election as speaker. Caffey, as representative of the wine industry, this year worked hard for some such exemptions as Uzzell proposed.

The wine bill debate recruited many members to those of the stunts they had been saving for a referendum battle. Perhaps they are now out of wind and won't be so keen to go into oratorical action again on a kindred subject.

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Another bill by Senator Rowe sets up a State Memorials Commission to be composed of men already on the state pay roll and to cost nothing extra, whose duty it will be to supervise erection, placing, transfer or sale of all art objects like statues, paintings, etc. In behalf of the state under the terms no monument would be erected to a person until 25 years after his death, but ratification of work of art now on state property could be removed without consent of the commission.

Some of the senator's friends suggested that he offered the bill mainly to prevent State Auditor George Ross from removing the more or less lovely and nude statue of an alleged Virginia Dare from his office.

Charged with a list of lewd verbiage designed to collect fees for parking in a public area, a bill by Senator Howell of Asheville merely legalizes the parking meters which were outlawed by a supreme court decision last year. Several cities had installed meters and would like to have the law thrown from it. If the Howell bill passes they can get it.

House bill 82 limiting capacity of swimming tanks to 1,500 gallons and Senate Bill 82 (prohibiting alternate dates with the same number as regular dates) came before different committees today. Both were referred to committee.

Note an incident of business in the House. The bill was being called amid a little more than usual confusion. One representative, whose name was repeated on the list, bent over to another and asked in a stage whisper: "That one they voting on?" "I don't know," was the reply. "It's a public head bill on something." "That's all right then," said the first, just before voting a loud "aye" as his name was called.

Speaking in the hall to limit capacity of things building gasoline in the gallons, Walter "Pete" Murphy,

...one promising price, as the state ... on one kind of truck? ... whether it's loaded with coffee beans or billy goats, but none ... as the fellow who ... with hand-painted li ... and goes driving on the high-

Albemarle county will be an oasis in a desert where sale of "fortified" ... "if the amount ... into the wine bill by the ... in the Senate.

Senator Dr. Pylearch, presented as ... oyster culture, was telling ... committee that ... along its coast a ... of suitable oyster beds, ... highly desirable areas. ... Howell of Asheville ... that a few years ago ... room turn part ... to promote the sale of ... for oyster culture. A ... around the room, and ... indication expressed ... Each of them said ... oysters."

Several years ago the legislature, in an effort to stop the sale of scrap tobacco, passed a special license tax of \$100 on scrap dealers. This did not stop the traffic, but did create a monopoly. Subsequent legislation reduced the license fee, but the monopoly and the traffic continued. Senator Lawson of Pitt has introduced a bill to scrap the whole idea and let any licensed dealer buy scrap. He says that the existing statute has cost tobacco farmers a lot of money by eliminating competition, and that last year scrap tobacco sold in South Carolina for more than a pound



One of the acrobats in "Egyptian Follies"—On the stage of the Stevenson—Sunday only.

The commonly accepted definition of an architect probably would be that he is a man who draws plans for a building. But that isn't quite right, at least it won't be right in North Carolina if a pending Senate bill becomes law. That bill legally defines architects about as the dictionary does, but then springs one of those "provided" clauses which say that nothing in the bill applies to plans for a building costing less than \$1000. So an "architect" will be a man who designs buildings for comparatively rich folks. Common run-of-mine citizens can still buy plans from lumber companies and mail order catalogs.

Dobson Bill To Stir Fight

Daily Dispatch Bureau, In the Sir Walter Hotel. By HENRY AVERILL

Raleigh, Feb. 20.—The House is going to get a real test of whether or not there is an ounce of fight in its 120 members.

Testing instrument is House Bill 279, "To Define and Prohibit Unfair Sales Practices", introduced by Surry's Henry C. Dobson.

It's the same bill in all its essentials, as the one for which Sandy Graham lobbied so hard and unsuccessfully two years ago.

In short, it's that old favorite of those who love controversy—the "fair (or unfair, depending on who's talking) trade" act, which makes the use of so-called "loss leaders" by retail merchants, usually chain stores, illegal.

If the legislators won't fight over that, they just won't fight over anything short of prohibition—and everybody knows that even the present members will scrap over that. Two years ago there was more wrangling and jangling over this bill (and the dry cleaners' commission) than any other introduced.

Intent of the bill is to declare unlawful the advertisement, offer to sell, or sale of any merchandise at less than cost as defined, with purpose to unfairly divert trade or otherwise injure competitors. This practice, as well as deceiving purchasers, lessening competition, restraining trade, or tending to create a monopoly, is declared contrary to public policy.

Penalties are set for violation. Definitions are frequent, and injunctive relief is afforded under certain circumstances.

This started a big fight last time. If it doesn't this year, then there's no hope of a good, old-fashioned row between now and sine die adjournment.

Investigation Of Defense Program Asked (Continued From Page One) with broad powers to require testimony of witnesses and officials and conduct hearings. Contracts and related subjects are the basis of the resolution but its scope also includes "practices of management or labor" and "such other matters as the committee appropriate."

Action came the day after Senator Vandenberg, Republican, Michigan, told the Senate "parasites" had attempted to get fees for their claimed influence in awarded defense contracts. Many congressmen have protested about geographical distribution of these awards.

Companion Bill Bars Transport (Continued From Page One) and provide for regulation of such made to fairs to help defray their premium costs. Representative Watkins of Vance introduced a bill relating to the Henderson municipal court and Edwards of Beaufort sent forward one to ratify election of officials of Washington Park. The finance committee favorably reported HB 351 to extend revaluation time in Wayne county.

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