

# Legislative Topics From Capitol Hill

Raleigh, Mar. 7.—Those few prophets who, early in the session, expressed the view that the 1945 General Assembly would not reach final adjournment until March 15 were then regarded by most observers as being unduly pessimistic. What was there to stand in the way of adjournment by March 5th or 7th? There appeared to be no great issues at stake which might bring on protracted fights. There were the biennial revenue and appropriations bills to enact, of course, but no one expected much change or much fight on the revenue bill, except perhaps in committee. The general fund surplus might have invited many raiding parties, but it was pretty well disposed of early in the session by the debt retirement measure. There would quite naturally be

fighting of greater or less seriousness over appropriations, but it was generally expected that the Joint Appropriations Committee would work out the bill, report it, and that would be that. There were the biennial liquor and beer and wine bills, but no one expected them to delay matters very much, whatever their fates might be. But by the end of the eighth full legislative week, with only ten more legislative days left if adjournment is to come by March 15, those few "pessimists" who still hold to the date of March 15 were being reclassified by many as optimists. Most of the "bad news" which now makes the prospects of a relatively early adjournment like unto a beautiful mirage which recedes before the advance of the weary desert traveler came out on

Friday. The week started well enough. True, the House was getting further and further behind on its public calendar, but it seemed to contain nothing which a few night sessions wouldn't clear up. The bills requiring readings on separate days were being moved along with very little delay. The non roll-call calendar could be disposed of without too much difficulty as soon as sufficient time could be spared from committee meetings to have a few long sessions. Wednesday was a really nice day for the optimists. On that day the Appropriations bill was ratified, nine of the principal insurance bills passed the House and were being readied for ratification, and the liquor referendum bill was quietly given an unfavorable report by the Senate Finance Committee, with no one apparently in sight ready to inject a shot of adrenalin in an attempt to give it a new spark of life. Also on Wednesday the Revenue bill was reported favorably in the House, and the following day a number of floor amendments, sent forward by the chairman of the Finance Committee, were adopted and the bill passed a second reading, all without debate. To a weary reporter, things were looking pretty good.

Then came Friday (and the weary reporter automatically thinks of "Black Friday"). Both the House and the Senate somewhat jumped the traces. After thinking things over since Thursday's session, the chairman of the House Finance Committee decided that one or more of his floor amendments might be construed as a "national amendment", having the effect of throwing the bill back on its first reading. That being so, the House erred in passing the bill on its second reading on Thursday, as Thursday's action constituted the first reading. He therefore moved that the vote by which the bill passed its second reading be reconsidered, to the end that it might then be placed on its second reading in conformity with the requirements of the Constitution. The motion carried, whereupon Representative Stone sent forward an amendment which would place an additional tax of \$1 per gallon on wine. After some debate and some show of feeling, the amendment was adopted, which action again threw the bill back to its first reading. All of which means that the Senate will get to its third reading on the bill by the end of next week at the earliest, with pretty fair prospects that a conference com-

mittee may finally have to be appointed to iron out differences in a bill which has already been studied for 2 months by a joint committee. That is just what happened, also on Friday to another bill which had been studied and reported out by a joint committee—the bill which draws the line between the provinces of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Controller. That bill was reported out to the House, which adopted several floor amendments, passed the bill as thus amended, and sent it to the Senate. The Senate added some amendments of its own which merely removed all of the House amendments, passed the bill and sent it back to the House for concurrence. The House quickly concurred and then, after considerable argument, marked by more asperity than has been shown so far, voted to reconsider the vote of concurrence and followed that with a vote in favor of a motion "that the House do not concur in the Senate amendments."

The "bad Friday" in the Senate gets its foundations from the "good Wednesday" two days before, when Senate Bill 147, which would give the counties of Graham, Macon, Swain, Cherokee and Clay the right to vote on prohibiting the sale of beer and wine, was reported unfavorably. It then seemed as moribund as the liquor referendum bill. But on Friday up rose the bill's sponsor, Senator Poland, and entered a forceful plea in support of a motion to take the bill from the unfavorable calendar and place it on the favorable calendar. The plea appealed to enough Senators to bring forth the necessary two-thirds vote, and there it is, just like any other bill, needing now only a simple majority to pass the Senate. Of course, there is still the House, and the bill itself is of no very great importance to the State as a whole. But does the Senate's action on this bill, and the House's action in tacking the wine tax amendment to the Revenue bill, portend an open fight on the whole liquor-beer-wine question? If so, the grass may again grow green on Capitol Square before the Senate and House gavel simultaneously sound final adjournment. There are some 30 other local beer and wine bills still in the Finance committee, and every day adds to the list. Considerable restlessness, even outright impatience, is becoming more and more evident, especially on the part of legislators from the west. Whether anything much will come of Friday's doing remains to be seen, but

plenty can still happen. One thing seems certain at this date: the General Assembly is not quite ready to be tied up in a neat bundle and sent home.

Among the bills of general interest introduced during the week was a bill to create a Medical Care Commission to provide for the expansion of the medical school of the University to a four year school, to provide for the erection of a central hospital in connection with such school and to provide a contingent appropriation to pay part of the hospital costs of caring for indigent patients; a bill to require that all instruments subject to registration bear the name of the draftsman; a bill to amend the Constitution to raise the pay of members of the General Assembly to \$900 for the term and to \$15 per day for extra sessions for not more than 25 days; and to increase the pay of the presiding officers, and another bill to amend the Constitution to allow members \$10 per day and the Speaker \$15 per day for expenses; a bill to exempt from taxation homes of veterans purchased with disability compensation up to \$5,000 tax value; a bill to divide the State into eight Educational Districts as provided by the recent Constitutional amendment; a bill to exempt service men and women from poll taxes and certain license taxes for ten years following honorable discharge; a bill to permit counties to establish zoning regulations, and another to permit counties to establish planning boards; and a bill to empower the REA to assist rural communities in securing telephone service.

## Ration Points Go UP For Lards And Shortenings

Raleigh, March 7.—The ration value of lard, shortening, salad and cooking oils has been increased to four red points per pound from two points and that of margarine to give 5 points per pound from three points, Theodore S. Johnson, Raleigh District OPA director announced today.

Creamery butter will continue at 24 red points per pound, and farm butter at 12 red points, as in the past.

Point values of lard, shortening, salad and cooking oils, and margarine are being increased because of a tight supply situation, he said.

The slaughter of hogs, and consequently, the production of lard, is substantially below a year ago, and below 1945 anticipated production. In addition, the government set-aside of lard for war uses is absorbing a large percentage of all federally-inspected lard production.

Because the amount of lard available to civilians is smaller than originally anticipated, an increase in its ration point value is necessary at this time. Because shortening, salad and cooking oils and margarine may be used interchangeably with lard in commercial and household cooking and baking, it is necessary to increase their point values simultaneously.

## Food Stamps In Good Budget

Raleigh, March 7.—With validation of new food stamps this month, American housewives now have a sizable block of stamps with which to budget their buying of rationed foods, OPA District Director Theodore S. Johnson said this week.

At present there are 19 Red Stamps (Q6 through Z5, A 2 through J2) and 20 Blue Stamps (X5 through Z5, A2 through S2) currently good, Mr. Johnson pointed out.

"Under the new arrangement, there will be about this same number of stamps good at all times," the OPA official added, "since each block of stamps will remain valid approximately four months."

Mr. Johnson urged every housewife to mark the expiration date of each Blue or Red Stamp as soon as

announced, on the back of the stamp itself, as the best way to keep herself reminded of the final date for its use.

## LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
NORTH CAROLINA,  
PERSON COUNTY.

The undersigned, having qualified as executrix of Mrs. Lizzie Frazier Knott, deceased, late of Person County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned on or before the 30th day of January, 1946, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 30th day of January, 1945.

Mrs. Jennie Knott, Executrix  
Lunsford & Burke, Attorneys.  
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8.

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UNDER FEEBLES

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**SINCLAIR OIL CO.**  
Bill Minor, Agent.

### NEWS LETTER:

Dear Buddies:

We meet Saturday night at the Legion Hut, Saturday, March 10th, and we are expecting you to be there. Some very important subjects are to be discussed, also we have a very agreeable surprise to come up. Be sure and come.

Ned Dillard.

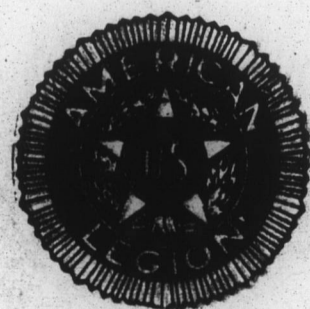
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# Ask General Eisenhower what your RED CROSS is doing for our Fighting Men



**GENERAL "IKE" knows—better than anybody else—how many of his wounded G.I. boys are saved from death by life-saving Red Cross Blood Plasma!**

He knows how a young soldier worries when there's no news from loved ones—or bad news—and how his spirits rise when a special Red Cross Home Service message says everything is O.K. at home.

And this is what General "Ike" says about the Red Cross:

"We simply couldn't get along without it. I consider the Red Cross an auxiliary of my army. They are doing a perfectly magnificent job in every way."

### ASK G.I. JOE

He'll tell you what the Red Cross does for him—and how! Listen to this boy's letter to his dad:

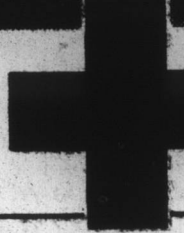
"Pop, whenever the Red Cross comes to you for money, give what you can spare, and then borrow more, as they are wonderful to us."

### ASK YOURSELF

Ask yourself: "Have I done as much as I can for my Red Cross—which is at my boy's side—ready to aid, comfort and cheer him?"

You can't do too much to help the devoted workers in this great Army of Mercy—who risk their lives over and over again to bring our millions of G.I. boys the proof that they are not forgotten by their home folks.

The Red Cross is doing your job—doing for your boy what you can't do. But you can help by giving more to the Red Cross now. Its job is stupendous—and it's growing bigger. Give as much more as you can—today!

**GIVE NOW... GIVE MORE**  **KEEP YOUR RED CROSS AT HIS SIDE**

This Message In Behalf Of The Red Cross Sponsored By

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