

Summary of Legislature

By ELMER OETTINGER
of the Institute of Government Staff

(Editor's Note: This is another of a series of weekly summaries of the activities of the 1941 General Assembly. The staff of the Institute of Government presents this service to afford a comprehensive weekly review of legislation introduced or passed by the representatives in Raleigh.)

At the close of its fifth week the General Assembly is preparing to dig through an avalanche of public legislation, including such individual obstacles as wage-hour, state marketing authority, reapportionment, unemployment compensation and national defense bills.

The only measures of public significance actually passed during the week were bills requiring the judge in first-degree burglary cases to charge the jury that they may render a verdict in the second-degree and permitting divorced women to resume their maiden names or the name of a prior divorced husband.

The national defense bills involved sabotage, housing, army draftees and volunteers, and uniforms. The sabotage measure, uniform bill sponsored by the Council of State Governments, would send to jail for 10 years or fine \$10,000, or both, persons intentionally destroying or injuring property or failing to note, on inspection, intentionally defective workmanship on articles when such actions would delay or interfere with defense or war preparations. The act also provides lesser penalties for unlawful entry on defense properties, or restricted streets or highways, and defines the rights of labor, privileges of witnesses and the questioning and detention of suspects in such cases.

Three housing measures, one validating the establishment and undertakings of housing authorities, were presented on Friday. The others would create such authorities to engage in slum clearance and dwelling accommodation projects for persons of low income including farmers, authorize cooperation with the Federal Government in housing projects, and assure safe and sanitary dwellings for persons engaged in national defense activities. Another bill would credit to draftees on a new car license the proportional amount of "Schedule B" license tax he had paid but not exercised because of his induction into armed forces. Other defense bills would appropriate \$30,000 for uniforming home guard units and authorize the Governor to form a State Guard to substitute for the National Guard when the latter is called into active Federal service. Individual State Guard members would not be exempt from Federal service, and the organization would be disbanded upon the National Guard's return.

A State wage-hour bill, much nearer to Federal standards than the impending Wage and Hour Commission's majority and minority reports, was offered by Senator Gregory. Minimum wages of 25 cents and maximum hours of 44 per week would be prescribed for the first year; a 30 cents per hour minimum for the next six years, with 40 cents per hour from then on; 42 hours maximum for the second year, with 40 hours thereafter. The act creates a Wage and Hour Bureau in the Department of Labor, to be appointed by Commissioner of Labor, and specifies non-interference with labor's right to collective bargaining.

Representative LeGrand of New Hanover sponsored a bill calling for the submission of a constitutional amendment at the next gen-

eration of any single county in the General Assembly to one senator and three representatives. Another measure proposes to set up a State Marketing Authority, composed of members of the State Board of Agriculture, to promote the more effective marketing of farm products. The unemployment compensation law amendments are designed to extend and revise the provisions of the present law.

Perhaps the most vital of all the bills introduced, from the standpoint of the counties and their officials, is the one which would require the State to assume all obligations on county road bonds issued before 1931. While the counties would not be relieved of responsibility for principal or interest in arrears at that time, the assumption, on July 1, 1941, would put on state highway funds the burden of all payments due after that date. Also included in

the bill is a provision prohibiting diversion of the highway funds. Of further interest to counties are measures to permit the appointment of county electrical inspectors to inspect wiring and electrical installations in towns of less than 1000 and in rural communities, and to permit no revaluation of real property for taxes in cases where the county commissioners find no change in values which would require revaluation by actual appraisal, or by horizontal increase or reduction; past failures to revalue in such cases would be validated. Another bill would make the commissions of representatives of deceased persons not over 5 per cent, in clerk's discretion, on expenditures and receipts, including the value of all personalty when received. Non-stock, non-profit, charitable hospitals would be exempted from taxation under another bill.

The riding public and highway transportation agencies are directly affected both by the Motor Vehicle Inspection bill, which would subject all motor vehicles to a semi-annual inspection, and rule those found to be unsafe off the highways, and the proposed amendments to the Gasoline Inspection Law, which would adopt a minimum standard for gasoline.

Another of the recommendations made by the Governor in his inaugural address took concrete form last week, in a bill designed to raise the minimum age for compulsory school attendance from fourteen to sixteen years. Teachers, under the terms of another introduction, would be entitled to five days of sick leave with pay each year, making this mandatory upon the State School Commission, where formerly it has been discretionary.

The filing of trademarks with

the Secretary of State by labor associations, for recording at \$1 each, is provided for in another measure, which calls for the issuance of injunctions by courts to prevent unauthorized use of manufacture of labels. A further liberalization of the birth certificate laws is contemplated by a bill to allow and provide for registering births more than five days after birth. The bill does not remove criminal liability for failure to register births within five days, but does validate the registration and filing of irregular birth certificates.

EARLY THANKSGIVING

There need be no uncertainty as to the date of Thanksgiving Day this year. Governor Broughton has announced that he will conform to the date set by President Roosevelt, which is November 20.

CAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY TO BUILD \$3,000,000 PLANT

Raleigh, N. C. — The Carolina Power & Light Company plans the immediate construction of a 40,000 horsepower steam electric generating plant to cost approximately three million dollars, L. V. Sutton, president and general manager, announced last night. Mr. Sutton said his company has had ample power resources at all times for the growing needs of the territory it serves in North and South Carolina, and that the construction of an additional electric generating plant is in line with the long established policy of his company to look ahead and have available an adequate source of dependable power to meet anticipated increased demands.

During 1940, he pointed out, the Carolina Power & Light Company, from its surplus supply of 100 million kilowatt-hours of electric power, met the com-

cluded many industries necessary to the national defense program now under way.

Ready In Early 1942

The new plant is planned to be completed and placed in service by the spring of 1942. It will be located somewhere within the Raleigh load area. An order for the steam turbine-generator unit has been placed. Orders for the boilers, condensers, and other equipment will be placed shortly, Mr. Sutton said. The turbine is to be of the latest and most improved type. It will be designed for 850 pounds steam pressure and 900 degrees Fahrenheit steam temperature. The generator will be hydrogen cooled. The boiler will be of the semi-outdoor type and be designed to make about 300,000 pounds of steam per hour. If the new plant is placed at the Cape Fear steam electric generating plant, located 18 miles east of Raleigh, N. C., it will double



We are building TODAY to meet Tomorrow's needs of territory and nation

Since the original Carolina Power & Light Company was organized in 1908 with a total generating capacity of only 5,330 h.p., a policy of anticipating future power needs has been closely followed!

By 1926, when the present Carolina Power & Light Company was formed, the generating capacity had increased to 165,000 h.p. Steadily this capacity has been increased, always in advance of actual needs, until, at the present time, the Company has an available capacity of 425,000 h.p.

While present facilities are adequate for present

needs, the territory is growing rapidly and the demands for electricity are steadily increasing. In keeping with our policy, \$3,000,000.00 is being invested in a new steam electric generating plant which will provide an additional 40,000 h.p., making a total of 465,000 h.p. available.

In undertaking this new construction we are not unmindful of the importance of this territory in our nation's Preparedness plans and of increased National Defense needs for electric power.

Indeed, we are building today to meet tomorrow's needs of our territory and nation!

CAROLINA POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

Our present generating and transmission system, as well as the additional new generating plant, represents an investment of private capital without Government aid or subsidy. Our Company and Electric Bond and Share Company, with which it is af-



iliated, as well as the private electric utility industry as a whole, feel the responsibility for providing adequate power for all Preparedness needs, leaving National Defense funds free for the purchase of actual defense materials.