

NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL:

Milk Powers, House Reassignment Up

RALEIGH, Feb. 16. (AP)—Price fixing powers for the State Milk Commission and reassignment of House seats in line with the 1950 census, both touchy issues, today were headed for the Senate floor.

The milk pricing bill, unanimously approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee after a public hearing, was reported to the Senate floor and likely will come up for debate tomorrow.

Both support and opposition were voiced at the hearing before the Senate and House Agriculture Committee. The measure, introduced by Sen. Ralph Scott of Alamance, would give the milk commission power to set minimum wholesale and retail milk prices.

Meeting after today's session, the Senate Committee on Election Laws and Senatorial Districts gave a "without prejudice" report to the House reapportionment bill. It is not expected to come before the full Senate until after tomorrow.

By the "without prejudice" report, the committee took no stand for or against the measure. It would increase the House membership of Alamance and Rockingham Counties from one to two representatives each and cut Cabarrus and Pitt Counties from two to one each.

WARRANT BILL Other legislative highlights today included final action on a bill to give officers authority to arrest

without warrants in misdemeanor cases. The bill, already approved by both Senate and House, was enacted into law when the Senate agreed to a House amendment.

It would clear confusion on situations where officers have authority to make arrests without warrants. Such arrests would be legal where the offense was committed in the officer's presence or he had "reasonable ground" to believe it was committed in his presence.

BETTER JOB

Action by committees included a recommendation from the House Roads Committee that the State Highway Commission do a better job of marking danger spots on secondary roads. The group also killed a measure to repeal inspections required for used cars brought into the state.

Opponents said repealing the law would make North Carolina a dumping ground for jalopies from other states.

Resolutions from the Legislature to Congress got attention from House members who were told too many of the resolutions are going through the legislative mill. The House passed a resolution calling on Congress and the President to refrain from adopting tariff policies which might hurt domestic textile interests.

The House Conservation and Development Committee approved another asking Congress to give schools and health departments priority in acquiring war surplus stocks.

House Speaker Larry I. Moore suggested that legislators write letters to their congressmen rather than introduce resolutions. Rep. H. Cloyd Philpott of Davidson said the General Assembly

"can better address itself to problems before it" instead of sending petitions to Congress.

ESCAPE BILL

New legislation included a bill to provide tougher penalties for prisoners who escape or those who aid in prison escapes. Introduced by Rep. Thomas Turner of Guilford and others, it would make escape or aiding in escape a misdemeanor.

Chariman W. W. Fitzpatrick of the milk commission promised the Senate Agriculture Committee the price fixing powers will be used "reluctantly and only when necessary for the good of the industry and the state as a whole."

Fitzpatrick said use of the pricing authority would be permissive rather than mandatory. Prices might be fixed in one section of the state without affecting other areas, he explained. He said authority to fix prices is necessary to enforce fair trade practices for the milk industry.

Opposition came from J. F. Fowlers, representing the Farmers' Cooperative Dairy of Mecklenburg County. He said the bill would deprive consumers of the advantage of lower milk prices.

Sen. Scott said the bill would help stabilize the milk industry by "preventing chaotic price wars."

The act creating the Milk Commission was passed by the 1953 General Assembly only after price fixing powers were stricken from it. The pricing feature sparked heated debate in the last legislature.

Although the State Constitution says that legislative membership shall be reapportioned after each census in line with population changes, both the 1951 and 1953 Legislatures turned down reapportionment bills.

The House Reapportionment measure considered by the Senate Committee today is expected to run into rough debate when it reaches the floor.

A special committee of senators is studying the problem of senatorial reapportionment under a resolution approved earlier this session.

Graham Tells Roads Committee N. C. Highways Not 'Adequate'

RALEIGH, Feb. 16. (AP)—The Joint Roads Committee, going to work on Gov. Hodges' highway program, was told today that much of North Carolina's primary road system is neither "adequate" nor "safe" for present day traffic needs.

Highway Commission Chairman A. H. Graham told the committee this as he reviewed developments that led the Highway Commission to propose a 610 million dollar highway modernization program along with 150 million dollar bond issue and some changes in highway taxes to increase highway revenues by about nine million dollars a year.

Tobaccoists Argue Against Weed Taxes

RALEIGH, Feb. 16. (AP)—Tobacco industry leaders declared today a state tobacco tax would further decrease cigarette and cigar sales and seriously affect North Carolina's economy.

"The industry is not in a healthy state," Fred Royster of Henderson told the Joint Finance Committee. "It is in a state of revolution. . . I say it is a time for alarm."

Royster, Henderson warehouseman and president of the board of governors of the Bright Belt Warehouse Assn., declared he spoke as an individual grower and warehouseman.

While cigarette sales in the U. S. have fallen 7 per cent since 1952, said Royster, they have increased substantially in the 35 leading cigarette producing nations.

Gov. Hodges and the Advisory Budget Commission have recommended a tobacco tax of 2 cents per pack on cigarettes, 1 cent per cigar, and 1 cent on each 10 cents worth of smoking tobacco. Such a tax schedule would yield the state an estimated \$8,945,000 per year.

The main reason for the sales decrease in the U. S., Royster asserted, is the increasing tax burden placed on tobacco since the end of World War II. He said the cancer scare is a minor reason for the decline.

Thursday's WUNC

- 7 p.m.—Songs of France
7:15—News Commentary: Phillips Russel
7:30—Music In the Air
7:45—Tar Heel Voices
8—John Brown's Body
10—Local, State and National News Followed by Program Resume
10:15—Evening Masterwork
11:30—Sign Off

-Textile-

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The theory of trade reciprocity, he said, just hasn't worked, adding:

"The U. S. textile market is the widest open, the most easily accessible, of any great consumer market in the world. This is true because U. S. tariffs have been steadily reduced during two decades of reciprocal trade agreements.

"To correct such a condition and permit the flow of goods to regions where they are most badly needed should be the real aim of a positive U. S. foreign economic policy, he said.

"Foreign cloth can come into this country and sell in the U. S. market for one reason only—because it is cheap. It is cheap for one reason only—because it is made with cheap labor."

Hallett, who is vice president and general manager of Kendall Cotton Mills, said that the textile industry in this country, while by far the U. S. cotton producer's largest customer, is vitally interested in helping maintain an export market for the relatively small part of the domestic crop not needed by American mills, and added:

"We are convinced that world trade, based on honest contractual relationships between countries, will open up new consumption areas for cotton and textile goods."

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Two N. C., One S. C. Towns Win In Contest

RALEIGH, Feb. 16. (AP)—Asheboro, Wallace and Clio, S. C., have won top honors for "helping to build a finer Carolina" in 1954, it was announced today.

Each town won \$1,000 first prize in its population class for outstanding community development. Roxboro, Ramseur and Hot Springs will receive second prizes of \$500 each, Third prizes of \$250 each go to Hartsville, S. C., Chadbourne and Pinewood, S. C.

The awards will be presented by Carolina Power and Light Co., sponsor of the contest.

Judges were Dr. S. H. Hobbs, Jr., professor of rural sociology at the University of North Carolina; Dr. Wilson Gee, head of rural social economics at the University of Virginia, and Dr. G. H. Aull, head of agricultural economics at Clemson.

Asheboro listed 25 undertakings, summarized under five major objectives: "Asheboro is building (1) A pleasant and attractive place in which to live; (2) Employment, good wages, pleasant working conditions; (3) Good schools where its youth can be trained and prepared for community leadership; (4) A recreation program to occupy time, to build healthy bodies, and (5) A cultural development program to stimulate the mind."

Wallace concerted its effort on five fronts: (1) A comprehensive recreation program; (2) Reconditioning its school gymnasium; (3) General clean-up and beautification; (4) School and library improvements; and (5) A house-to-house campaign to pass a street bond issue.

Projects undertaken at Clio

were: (1) Beautifying streets and sidewalks; (2) A general paintup and clean-up; (3) Improving church grounds; (4) Improving educational facilities to relieve overcrowded classrooms; and (5) Improving the community center and other recreational facilities.

John Friday Will Lecture At Baptist Fete

John Ralph Friday, Raleigh attorney, will be chief speaker at a Family Night Dinner tonight at 6:30 at the Baptist Church here. Friday received his B.S. degree from Wake Forest College and graduated from the University School of Law in 1951 with the LL.B. degree. He is brother of Bill Friday, newly appointed secretary of the Consolidated University of North Carolina.

The topic of his speech will be "Report on Europe" and will be illustrated with color slides which he made while stationed in Europe. He recently returned to the United States after completing a tour of duty abroad with the armed services.

APO BOOKS

Books and refunds on books from the Alpha Phi Omega book exchange may be picked up today at the APO desk in New East Annex from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Claim checks must be presented.

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