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At the CAPITAL

By M. R. Dunnagan, The Pilot's Raleigh Correspondent

Anti-Sales Tax Proposal

Amendments to the Revenue bill, now before the joint House and Senate Finance committees, are being drawn and will be presented this week embodying the anti-sales tax proposals presented last week by Dr. Ralph McDonald, Forsyth, and W. L. Lumpkin, Franklin, and hearings are to be held this week for opponents of the proposals and other features of the bill.

Meanwhile, merchants of the state are not sure just where they stand. The McDonald-Lumpkin proposals include a sales tax of one-fourth of one percent on gross retail sales, called a franchise tax. Merchants are not so strong for this kind of a tax, as they would have to absorb it, although they are strong against the sales tax, which they are required to pass on to customers. And, Governor Ehringhaus made this remark about the proposals: "It now seems to be generally conceded that a sales tax, in one or more forms, is inevitable."

The Finance committee decided to take time to study the McDonald-Lumpkin tax plan, which, the proponents claim, will bring in \$12,361,094.98, or some \$3,800,000 more than the \$88,700.00 estimated for the general sales tax. The plan would increase corporate franchise taxes \$4,682,679, the proponents of the measure saying these taxes now are \$21,359,898, as compared with \$28,464,689 in 1931. The plan is "to provide recapture of tax reduction of corporations as a result of the reduction in ad valorem taxes" when the State took over full operation of public schools and roads, the proponents state.

The McDonald-Lumpkin plan proposes four new taxes; six percent income tax on dividends of stock in corporations, \$3,086,538; increase in franchise tax on corporations, \$4,682,679.75; increased insurance premium taxes, \$350,483.04; occupational license taxes of from \$5 to \$900 on individuals making more than \$1,000 a year, and not now paying taxes, and taxes on chain theaters, chain service stations and merchants, \$4,241,374.20.

Liquor and Beer Bills

The liquor and beer bills are now receiving attention. The Senator John Sprunt Hill bill for liquor control, with revenue for welfare and social work, is scheduled for hearings this week, and this is sure to bring a great outpouring of opponents, as well as proponents. Two beer bills, one to increase the alcoholic content to 4.5, the other to make the law conform to federal requirements, were sent back to committee after a hearing last week.

The "beautifications" are having a time with their amendments, which would take from the Governor and vest in their association naming of a board of examiners and another of inspectors of beauty shops licensed. It has been dubbed a "spite amendment," since they carried a case to the Supreme Court seeking to oust the members Governor Ehringhaus named to the board, and lost. Legislators like to have these "beauties" around and have arranged another hearing for Wednesday.

Optometrists, also seeking to strengthen their examining board and the restrictions on practitioners, finally got their bill through the House after eliminating part of their unethical practices provisions, particu-

larly the prohibition against newspaper advertising, which newspapermen opposed. The photographers, seeking also to have a licensing board, likewise had tough luck. Their bill was first killed, then revived, and sent to a committee.

Drivers' License

The drivers' license bill, passed by the Senate unanimously, is due to be up in the House by the middle of this week, or earlier.

The Senate Education committee has named a sub-committee to study the textbook rental plan embodied in a bill to provide \$2,000,000 as a revolving fund to purchase books to start the plan.

The House Salaries and Fees committee favorably reported a bill to increase salaries in the lower brackets. It would increase 20 per cent all salaries below \$750 a year, and 10 per cent on all from \$750 to \$1,500 a year.

The joint Health committee approved the bill to vaccinate children to prevent diphtheria, which was opposed by chiropractors and Christian Scientists.

The bill to vaccinate dogs against rabies struck a snag and may die.

Bills introduced this session passed the 200 mark in the Senate and was approaching 370 in the House at the week-end. Only a few important State-wide measures, other than resolutions, have been enacted.

Bills of general interest introduced last week follow:

Highway—Increase Highway Patrol, one bill to 115, another to 200,

both plus officers; require motor vehicle drivers to carry liability insurance; to give cities and towns power to require operators of drivers for hire to carry insurance; require marking of central lines on all hard-surfaced roads; make office of chairman of the commission elective by the people; allow commission to establish shoe factory to make shoes for State institutional inmates; to require certain motor vehicles to be equipped with safety glass; prevent diversion of highway funds; make eight hours basis for days pay in highway and prison workers; require State to maintain all highways over which RFD routes are established.

Education—Joint resolution requesting Congress to pass an act providing for equalizing fund of \$100,000,000 for schools; to facilitate operation of free textbooks in public schools; provide compensation for school children injured while riding in school buses; provide for rental textbooks system and promote efficiency and economy in textbook adoptions.

B. & L.—Authorize and permit B. & L. associations to convert into federal savings and loan associations, and prescribe the proceedings therefor.

Agriculture—Authorize boards of county commissioners to buy and furnish farmers with equipment for use in soil erosion prevention; require records kept of stock sold at stock yards.

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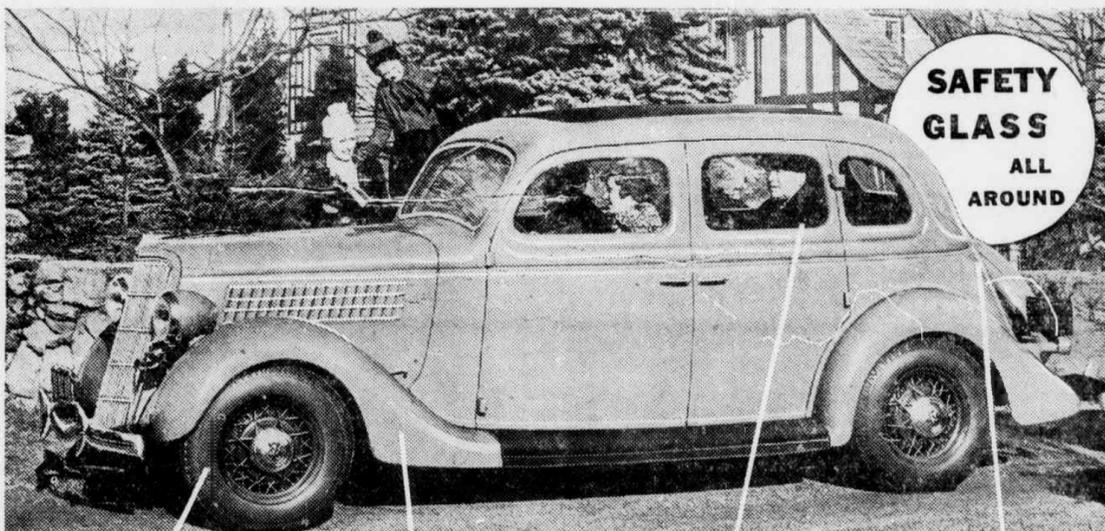
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