

President Pleads For "Fair Deal" Before Congress

Delivers State of the Union Message To Joint Group Yesterday Afternoon

In his State of the Union message to a joint session of the 81st Congress yesterday afternoon at 1:00 o'clock, President Harry S. Truman pleaded for his "Fair Deal" program, urging the lawmakers to wait no longer in inaugurating such sweeping social changes as compulsory health insurance, the Brannan farm plan, extension of rent controls, a housing program to help families in the middle income brackets and other proposals to boost the public prosperity. Repeal of the Taft-Hartley law was asked.

The message was part of an over-all confusion setting, the President asking for a "moderate" increase in taxes, while lawmakers on all sides declared for less spending and tax decreases.

The lawmakers greeted the message with mixed and even violent reactions that plainly indicated trouble ahead. The Democrats, exclusive of a few, were for many parts of the outlined program. Republicans snorted it was "socialism" and "rehash" and they booed and peered the Chief Executive of the United States to his face.

More than one hundred Republican House members signed a round robin, declaring Mr. Truman had "again given notice that he is wholly committed to the eventual socialization of America."

In his message, President Truman took a broad sweep over a full century. He looked back over fifty years and the "miracle" he said it had produced in shorter hours, more production and better living.

He looked at the present and said this is no time to rest on the oars, to stand pat on achievements of the past. And he gazed a half-century into the future to a time when he figured the income of the average American family might be around \$12,000 a year—three times what it is now.

"Today, by the grace of God," Mr. Truman said, "we stand a free and prosperous nation with greater possibilities for the future than any people have ever had before in the history of the world."

But to improve the financial outlook at the moment, he said, some changes are needed in the tax system to bring in "a moderate amount of additional revenue."

He said the changes should "reduce present inequities" and stimulate business. He promised more definite recommendations soon.

He sends Congress an economic report Friday and his budget for next fiscal year on Monday.

With the Treasury taking in around \$38,000,000,000 a year, the budget points to more red ink—a deficit of more than \$4,000,000,000 in the fiscal year, which begins next July 1.

Below is a digest of President Truman's State of the Union message:

Taxes—"Make some changes in our tax system which will reduce present inequalities, stimulate business activity, and yield a moderate amount of additional revenue." He said specific suggestions would be made shortly.

Business—"Close the loopholes" in the anti-trust laws so as to bar "monopolistic mergers." He promised to send the lawmakers later a "series of proposals to assist small businesses and to encourage the growth of new enterprise."

Farm—Pass the Brannan Plan with its system of production payments; provide mandatory price supports for products which are major sources of farm income and are not adequately covered.

Labor—Replace the Taft-Hartley Act with "a law that is fair to all and in harmony with our ideals." Expand the social security program to provide higher benefits and greater coverage. Improve the unemployment compensation program to supply more jobless aid. Set up a labor extension service to encourage education in labor relations.

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Make Plans For A Survey Of Sewer Line Extensions

Plans, calling for a survey of sewer line extensions within the town and in the North Houghton Street and West End sections, are well advanced, Mayor Robt. Cowen said yesterday. The federal government has tentatively agreed to advance the funds for the survey which will likely cost between \$2,000 and \$3,000, it was explained. Detailed information and application for the money were filed with a government agency in Atlanta a few days ago.

While the sewer line extension needs constitute a problem within themselves, there's the problem of whether to proceed on the basis of town limits as they are now constituted or to work with the view of a consolidation of the surrounding territory, principally the thickly populated area in the

North Houghton and West End sections.

Little has been said recently about incorporating those sections within the present town, but if such action is ever contemplated, officials point out that now is the time to consider it.

The welfare of the town and the communities just outside the limits is likely to be discussed at a meeting of the town officials at their monthly meeting next Monday night. Anyone, including those inside or immediately outside the town limits, will be welcomed at the meeting and their views will be appreciated, no doubt.

Little business has been definitely scheduled for the meeting which opens at 8:00 o'clock Monday night.

LICENSES

Clearing the L's and M's in one big rush during the latter part of December, the Safety Division of the State Highway Patrol is now issuing drivers' licenses to those persons whose last names begin with the letters N, O, P and Q. Persons whose names begin with any one of those four letters may get their licenses at the Martin County courthouse any Wednesday or Thursday before June 30. It isn't advisable to wait until the last minute to take the tests.

A few stragglers whose names begin with L or M are reporting for their licenses this week, but most of those in that letter combination have their licenses.

Horton To Install Kiwanis Officers

Hugh Horton, a past lieutenant governor of the Carolinas District of Kiwanis International, will have charge of the installation of new local club officers at its regular meeting tonight. Officers to be installed include Fitzhugh Fussell, president; C. B. Clark, Jr., vice president; W. H. Carstarphen, treasurer; and Wendell Peele, secretary. These men will succeed Sam Woolford, Fussell, Geo. Mahler, and Bob Monteith in the same respective order of offices.

In an organizational meeting held on Tuesday night, President-Elect Fussell announced that a meeting of the various committees would be called following the new officer ceremonies. Monographs have been distributed to the various committee chairmen to acquaint them with the objectives of their individual committees.

Heads Highway Patrol Radio

C. D. Cavanaugh, while maintaining his home here, is now stationed in Raleigh as Chief Engineer of the State Highway Patrol Radio System. It is understood his family will join him as soon as living quarters are found.

M. Stuart Davis, Jr., is succeeding Mr. Cavanaugh as engineer in charge of the Williamston station, a position Mr. Cavanaugh has held since the stations were opened. Horace Gooding of Elizabethtown, a member of the radio staff in the State since the war, is succeeding Mr. Davis as engineer.

Farmers Report Hogs Missing

More hogs have been reported missing from Martin County farmers during the past few days, according to a report coming from the sheriff's office.

Two hogs, each weighing about 125 pounds, disappeared from the Forbes farm near Spring Green last week. Farmer Herbert Manning who had a large hog stolen from his pen the latter part of last year, reported another hog missing this week.

Autopsy Points To Drowning As Cause of Death

Unofficial Report Stated That I. L. Alexander's Heart Not Damaged

The report that Ira L. Alexander, well known timber man of Jamesville, accidentally drowned in Roanoke River near that town early Tuesday morning was said to have been supported by preliminary findings during an autopsy performed here late last night. No official comment could be had at that time, however, and no final report will be available until laboratory tests are completed by the pathologist, Dr. Arnold Strauss, of De Paul Hospital, Norfolk.

The autopsy, arranged after the committal service in Columbia yesterday afternoon, was requested by the Mengel Corporation, employers of the drowning victim. The body was disinterred immediately after the committal service and returned to the Biggs Funeral Home here, Dr. Strauss and his assistant meeting it there.

It could not be learned how long the laboratory tests will take, but preliminary findings were said to have pointed, more or less, definitely to accidental drowning. One report, coming from unofficial but reliable sources, said that the heart was found not to have been damaged, that something like muddy water was found in the lungs, and attendants were quoted as saying that "it looks like drowning."

The autopsy, taking about an hour and fifteen minutes, revealed that Mr. Alexander had suffered a stroke or some head injury some time ago, possibly several years or more.

The body was returned to the cemetery in Columbia early this morning for final committal.

Big News Stories Of The Old Year

The reviewers had a great time picking the big news stories of 1949. Two of the most widely published are the lists made (a) by American editors, and (b) by the editors in Europe and the Near East (Russian editors are not included). The same item appeared first in both lists, but otherwise the two lists are widely dissimilar.

The stories selected by the American editors were the following:

- 1—President Truman announces atomic explosion in Russia.
- 2—Communists overrun China.
- 3—Coal-steel strike threaten American economy.
- 4—High naval officers challenge unification policies.
- 5—Jury convicts 11 top Communists in U. S.
- 6—Kathy Fiscus dies 95 feet down a well pipe.
- 7—P-38 rams air liner at Washington, killing 55.
- 8—Hungarian court convicts Cardinal Mindszenty of treason.
- 9—Vice-President Barkley marries Missouri widow.
- 10—Major league races end in baseball's closest finish.
- 11—The list compiled by the editors of Europe and the Near East is as follows:
- 1—President Truman announces atomic explosion in Russia.
- 2—The Atlantic Pact is signed.
- 3—British devalue their currency.
- 4—Communists overrun China.
- 5—West German republic is established.
- 6—Tito splits with the Kremlin.
- 7—The Berlin blockade is lifted.
- 8—Catholics and Communists locked in struggle in Central Europe; Mindszenty trial.
- 9—Greek civil war ends.
- 10—Peace established in Israel.

Continues Critically Ill In The Hospital

In declining health for more than two years, Mrs. Fred J. Roebuck yesterday afternoon was reported critically ill in a Washington hospital where she was removed to after a stay of several weeks with her daughter, Mrs. W. E. Grimes, near Stokes.

County Board In Short Meeting Monday Morning

Discuss Plans for Providing Rest Rooms for Women Jurors in Courthouse

With little scheduled business on their calendar, Martin County's commissioners, Messrs. C. C. Martin, J. H. Edwards, W. M. Harrison, C. A. Robertson and H. S. Johnson, handled the routine duties and then talked about farming, bird hunting along with various other topics at their regular monthly meeting last Monday. There were no visitors, and no requests for roads or special considerations. The officials observed along with many others the day before as a holiday, and possibly a change in the meeting date confused the callers and no special appointments were made.

After hearing lengthy reports from the heads of the various county departments, the commissioners discussed plans for providing rest rooms for women jurors on the second floor of the courthouse. Quite a few women have been called for jury duty in this county, but only a few served, and they did so mainly because they could not offer an acceptable excuse. It is thought that the limited rest room facilities have had something to do with the service record of the women, and the commissioners ordered a study of conditions be made.

A contract for painting the interior of the agricultural building was to be made by Noah Hardison who submitted a low bid of \$465. There were several bids, the highest being around \$800.

Making his monthly report to the commissioners, Tax Collector M. Luther Peel said that \$75,306.37 remained to be collected from the 1949 levy of \$312,010.44. All but \$9,645.77 of the \$283,958.39 levy for 1948 has been collected. Mr. Peel also reported that there was a balance of \$4,700.99 due from the \$234,906.57 levy for 1947.

Their work completed, the commissioners enjoyed their informal talk which centered around the county home and other unconnected subjects before adjourning shortly before lunch time.

No Divorce Or Damage Actions

Up until late yesterday no one had applied for a marriage license in the New Year and no divorce or damage suits had been filed in the Martin County Superior Court, Register J. Sam Getsinger and Clerk L. B. Wynne said.

There were comparatively few marriages in the county last month, and only six civil actions were filed in the court.

There's quite a rush at the money lending counters and courthouse employees are busy recording various types of mortgages and liens.

Minor Accident Near Jamesville

No one was hurt and damage hardly exceeded \$100 in a road accident near Jamesville last Saturday morning, according to a report released yesterday by Patrolman E. F. Simmons.

Paul Barber was driving on the Jordan Thicket road and stopped quickly to avoid striking a dog. William Modlin, driving behind Barber, could not stop in time to avoid crashing into Barber's 1947 Chevrolet.

Fire Damages Farm Tractor

Fire damaged H. A. Sexton's new farm tractor and burned the tires off a trailer on a farm near Jamesville about 2:00 o'clock yesterday afternoon.

It is thought that gas leaked from the carburetor to the ground and caught fire. Damage to the tractor was estimated at about \$300. The fire threatened to spread to the barn where a corn sheller was in operation, but it was checked.

Motorists Had Murder In Their Eyes In This County

Motorists had murder in their eyes when they traveled the highways in this county last year. While motorists were not involved in as many accidents last year as they were the year before, they killed the largest number of people than in any other year during the past five.

Other than fatalities, the highway and street accident record in this county last year showed much improvement over the cold facts recorded the year before. There were eight fewer accidents reported last year than in 1948. Twenty fewer people were injured, and the property damage was about \$6,500 less.

While some of the accidents can't be explained away, most of them are traceable to three main factors—speed, careless and reckless driving and faulty mechanical equipment. The last fatality was entered in the records when a

man drove from a dirt road into the highway without stopping. Possibly more accidents resulted when motorists started to make left turns without giving proper signals than for any other reason.

Following is a five-year comparison of highway-street accidents in this county:

Year	Fatalities	Injured	Property Damage
1945	87	47	\$17,475
1946	126	105	27,775
1947	139	62	30,115
1948	150	84	37,750
1949	142	64	31,175

Approximately one-third of the accidents took place within the limits of the various towns.

The Enterprise is indebted to members of the highway patrol—Cpl. T. Fearing, J. T. Rowe, B. W. Parker, M. F. Powers, R. P. Norton and E. P. Simmons—for the weekly summary on wrecks in the county. They have worked hard to protect the lives of our people and are keenly interested in saving life, limb and property.

Hold Funeral For Accident Victim

Funeral services were held in the Columbia, N. C., Baptist Church yesterday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock for Ira Lewis Alexander, Jamesville man, who was accidentally drowned in Roanoke River early Tuesday morning. Rev. W. B. Harrington conducted the service and interment was in the Columbia cemetery. A short service was held at the home at 12:30 o'clock or just before the funeral procession left for Columbia.

Mr. Alexander, superintendent of logging operations for the Mengel Corporation, was walking around the rail of a logging boat to wipe the windshield when his foot slipped and he fell into the stream.

He was born in Tyrrell County near Columbia 54 years ago on March 25, 1895, and after spending his early life there located in Jamesville about fifteen or twenty years ago. He was a son of the late Henry L. and Sarah Frances Pritchard Alexander, and a member of the Baptist Church.

Surviving are his widow, the former Miss Clara Nelson, and three brothers, D. N. Alexander of Goldsboro, Dan Alexander of Durham and Vernon Alexander of Columbia, N. C.

Big Docket For County's Court

A big docket is certain for the Martin County Recorder's Court when the tribunal holds its first session since closing down on December 19 for the holidays. Considering the long period of inactivity, the docket is not so large, after all. However, it is likely that more cases will be booked during the next day or two in addition to the 45 already on the docket.

Speeders are again monopolizing the docket with twenty-one cases. Eight others are charged with operating motor vehicles without driver's license. Four are booked with drunken driving. Three are booked for assaults with deadly weapons, two for simple assaults, two for non-support, and one each for violating the liquor laws, reckless driving, bawdy, drunkenness, reckless driving and operating a motor vehicle without a chauffeur's license.

Few Cases Heard In J. P. Courts

Despite all the stir and commotion during the holidays, peace and quiet reigned for the most part locally during the past few days.

Justice John L. Hassell reported no cases in his court, and Justice R. T. Johnson had only two.

Charged with disorderly conduct, Robert Purvis was taxed with \$5.85 costs. James Edward Fleming, charged with operating a motor vehicle with improper brakes, was fined \$5 and taxed with \$5.85 costs.

Marriage License Issuance Back To Normal In County

Number of Marriages Fall From 335 Peak In 1946 To 220 Last Year

The marrying business got back to about "normal" in Martin County last year when the office of Register of Deeds J. Sam Getsinger issued only 220 licenses, 110 to white and 110 to colored couples.

Dropping to around 200 marriages each year during some of the war years, the business at the license bureau boomed to a peak of 335 in 1946, dropping fairly gradually each year since that time.

After outnumbering those going to white applicants for nine years, licenses issued to colored applicants last year were only equal to those issued to white couples.

Licenses were issued in December to nine white and thirteen colored couples, as follows:

White
Joseph Daniel Wynne and Betty Sue Gurganus, both of Williamston.

Dennis C. Mobley, RFD 3, Williamston, and Betty Speller, RFD 4, Windsor.

Rufus Wynne, RFD 3, Williamston, and Christine Leggett of Windsor.

Obed Lenwood Lee of Edenton and Mattie Edmondson of Williamston.

Jimmie Darrell Keel and Betty Jean Moore, both of Williamston. John D. Bunch of Colerain and Sophie Cullipher of RFD 4, Ahoskie.

Sam Stewart Hardison and Beatrice Ward, both of Williamston. William Borden Ennett of Swansboro and Velma Rose Hardison of Williamston.

Cecil Nelson of Robersonville and Ruby Rogerson of Williamston.

Colored
Levie Dolberry of Hobgood and Jessie Bell Little of Bethel.

William Andrew Lyons, Jr., RFD 1, Williamston, and Mary Davis, RFD 3, Williamston.

David Wallace of Everetts and Willie Ann Yarrall of Williamston.

Clarence Williams and Martha Beatrice Sharpe, both of RFD 2, Robersonville.

Clavon Brown and Ida McIntyre, both of Williamston.

John Taylor and Magnolia Collier, both of Robersonville.

John C. Council of RFD 1, Bethel, and Elizabeth Cotten of Oak City.

Robert Bonner and Lizzie May Williams, both of RFD 3, Williamston.

Cornelius Jenkins of RFD 1, Robersonville, and Sarah Battle of RFD 2, Robersonville.

Clinton Kewmer and Marie Askew, both of Ahoskie.

William Arthur Moore and Mary Bell Williams, both of Robersonville.

Willie H. Downey and Mary Alice Berry, both of RFD 4, Windsor.

Guy Outlaw and Janie Rascoe, both of Windsor.

The following figures show the yearly issuance of marriage licenses to white and colored couples from 1931 through 1949:

Year	White	Colored	Total
1931	62	64	126
1932	64	71	135
1933	103	166	269
1934	116	165	281
1935	122	129	251
1936	117	139	256
1937	147	146	293
1938	126	138	264
1939	81	78	159
1940	92	81	173
1941	126	100	226
1942	100	120	220
1943	74	129	203
1944	72	118	190
1945	95	114	209
1946	145	190	335

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Plans To Return To Hospital In Few Days

Quite ill for several months, Mr. W. H. Williams has shown some improvement at his home here during the past few weeks and plans to return to a Rocky Mount hospital within the next day or two for an operation.