

Budget Calls For \$303,000 In The Next Period

Inspection, Budget and the ABC Stores Warming Things Up in Raleigh

By Scott Summers Raleigh—Governor Kerr Scott's biennial address to the legislature, followed by his budget message, caught conservative forces off-guard.

At first, their reaction was a chortling "he's lost his steam" or "we've got him where the hair's short."

But they are suddenly awakening to the fact that the Haw River dairyman has outmaneuvered them again, and what worries them the most is that whatever course they take they will build up campaign material for the liberals in the coming 1952 State-wide campaign.

The budget recommended by the Advisory Budget Commission—stacked four to three in favor of the conservatives—called for \$303,000,000 to be spent by the General Fund during the next two years. Rising costs, plus some "must" increases in staffs to take care of authorized services caused even economy-minded Frank Taylor of Wayne, Larry Moore of Wilson, Grady Rankin of Gaston and Edwin Pate of Scotland to recommend a budget that is some \$25,000,000 higher than one for the current two years.

Governor Scott in his budget message noted that "his was fine, as far as it went, but called for raising and appropriating another \$38,000,000 to meet what he considered "necessary" services and expenses.

This extra money is needed, he said, to raise teacher pay to the \$2,200-\$3,100 minimum for "A" grade teachers (some \$17,000); to continue the merit pay raise system for state employees (approximately \$2,000,000); increasing reserves of the retirement system (\$1,000,000); state aid for construction of local hospitals (some \$6,000,000); a fund to supplement permanent improvements already authorized and meet rising costs (\$10,000,000); with the remainder to go for a psychiatric hospital at the University of North Carolina and better training for mental hospital personnel.

To do this, the Governor pointed out, more revenue is needed. He recommended elimination of sales tax exemptions and replacing the sales tax on theaters.

For the benefit of the legislators pledged to "no new taxes", he gave them an out. He labeled his revenue-producing recommendations at not "new" taxes, perish the thought, but as an "extension of present taxes" in the case of the sales tax exemption and as "restoration of taxes" in the theatre department.

All of this, the Governor dumped in the legislators laps. He didn't "ask" for anything. He told them what he thought they ought to do and how to do it.

Worried conservatives are faced with these possibilities:

If they go along with the Governor's recommendations—and they generally admit that the suggested appropriations would be fine if they "only had the money"—it will be a victory for the liberal forces headed by the Governor. This would make nice campaign talk for the liberal gubernatorial candidate in 1952.

If they stick to the policy of no appropriations other than those advocated by the Advisory Budget Commission (Continued on page eight)

Precinct Law To Have Little Effect

The proposed law to limit to 1,000 the number of qualified voters that could be registered in any one precinct, will have little effect in this county.

At the present time there is only one voting precinct, Williamston No. 2, with more than 1,000 registered voters. Robersonville has about 975 and Williamston No. 1 has slightly more than 900. Jamesville is next with 683 registered voters, and the number ranges in the other precincts from about 250 to slightly more than 500.

Bringing Red Cross Blood Bank To Area

OFF TO WILSON

With two busses, an instrument truck and several cars, the Williamston High School Band left for Wilson at 9:30 this morning to take part in the parade of the District Lions convention to be held at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

The local band has won honors in two previous district parades and last summer won first place in the state convention parade at Charlotte.

It is understood that Director Jack Butler and his young musicians have prepared some special numbers for the event.

Two Injured In Series of Road-Street Accidents

Total of Eight Accidents In County During Past Several Days

Two persons were injured, one seriously, in a series of motor vehicle accidents on the streets and highways of the county during the past few days.

Tillmon Riddick, 40-year-old colored man of Williams Township, suffered a compound leg fracture, bruises about the body and possibly internal injuries, when he walked into Williamston's Washington Street near the Crystal Grill and was struck by a car driven by Willie Gus Wiggins about 7:15 o'clock last Saturday night. He was reported to be recovering in the Martin General Hospital.

Wiggins, Negro tenant farmer, was driving into town when Riddick, said to have been drinking, stepped suddenly into the street. The victim was knocked several feet and into the path of a pickup truck approaching from the other direction. One of his shoes was picked up twenty-five feet away. H. H. Cowen, Jr., driving the pickup, stopped before striking the victim and got out and helped make arrangements to get him to the hospital. No charges were filed against Wiggins immediately.

J. E. Hedrick, Jamesville man, was cut on one finger and skinned about the face and bruised in a car-truck accident near Holly Springs on Highway 64 last Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. He was entered in the Martin General Hospital for treatment, and is getting along all right.

Investigating the accident, Patrolman J. T. Rowe said a log truck broke down, that Jack Hardison, driving an oil truck belonging to the Williamston Oil Company, parked the vehicle beside the road to offer assistance. Learning he could render no assistance, he started to turn around by backing the truck into the highway. Hardison explained that he saw the Hedrick car approaching from the east, but thought it had cleared. The truck was just across the center line when the car ran under the back end, doing about \$150 damage to the truck. Damage to the car, a 1950 Ford, was estimated at about \$900.

Early last Tuesday evening, Elvin Hardy Rawls lost control of his 1946 Mercury in a blind curve on a dirt road near Bear Grass, and the machine skidded, turning over into a ditch. No one was hurt, but Patrolman B. W. Parker, investigating the accident, estimated the damage at \$150.

Thursday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock, John T. Rowe, driving a (Continued on Page Eight)

Britishers Spending Two Weeks With Friends

Mr and Mrs. W. C. Williams and son, Roger, of Worcester, England, arrived Sunday to spend two weeks here with Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bridgen.

Mr. and Mrs. Bridgen met the Williams family while they were in England during World War II.

Committee Named To Help Handle Chapter Program

Project Approved; Special Bloodmobile To Make A Run Out of Norfolk

Plans for establishing a Red Cross Blood Bank in this county were virtually completed at a meeting of local Red Cross chapter representatives last Thursday afternoon, and arrangements are to be made within the next week or ten days for operating a special Red Cross bloodmobile out of Norfolk.

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Chas. I. Harris of Martin General Hospital, explained the urgent need for a blood bank in this area and cited many advantages to be expected from the bank.

The chairman explained that the demand for blood transfusions is rapidly increasing, that only with a blood bank can emergencies be met successfully. It was pointed out that the blood bank system avoids delays and often reduces the time a patient has to spend in a hospital.

The supply will be made available to civilians and the military without charge, it was explained.

The blood bank will make available the types that are rare or hard to locate, and will eliminate costly tests, it was also pointed out.

There'll be no waste to the program because all whole blood not used within a certain time is to be converted into plasma or used for other purposes.

Special arrangements had to be made to bring the Red Cross Bloodmobile into this chapter since operations are ordinarily limited to a 100-mile operating radius. The schedule to include this chapter was recently approved, and Miss Margaret Margrave of the American Red Cross Tidewater Regional Blood Center in Norfolk, is to come here within a short time to arrange a schedule and handle other details.

A short time ago, the Bloodmobile made its first trip to Plymouth and received more than 160 pints of blood. It is believed that it will do equally as well if not better in this chapter.

The Martin County National Guardsmen have volunteered more than fifty pints of blood as a starter, and it is possible that there'll be more donors than the Bloodmobile can handle.

The Bloodmobile, fully equipped and staffed by eight nurses and one or more doctors, leaves Norfolk about 6:00 a. m. and has its equipment set up and ready for the first donors about 10:00 o'clock. Incidentally, free meals are furnished the donors. After working about six hours, the Bloodmobile packs up its equipment for the return trip to its base. At the present time, the Bloodmobile is operating in twelve Northeastern North Carolina chapters and twenty in Virginia. The local chapters accept about 200,000 pints of blood annually, and about three trips will be made in the course of a year.

Working with Dr. Harris on the committee in this chapter are V. J. Spivey and Wheeler Manning, chairman and co-chairman of blood donor recruiting; Mrs. Garland Woolard, chairman of volunteer services, and Al Sweatt, chairman of information services.

While funds in the local chapter treasury are almost depleted, emergency measures will be taken to launch the blood bank project without waiting for the annual Red Cross fund drive in March.

Replaces Manning On Jamesville Committee

In a special meeting last Thursday evening, the Martin County Board of Education upon the motion of Member F. W. Holliday elected Ben Styons as a member of the Jamesville School Committee. Styons succeeds Bill Manning who recently moved from Jamesville to Plymouth.

Boys Are Charged With Assaulting A 15-Year-Old Girl

Victim Discharged Following Treatment In Hospital Monday

Charged with attacking a 15-year-old girl whose identity was not immediately revealed, James Hardison, young white man, was placed in the county jail early Monday morning, and a warrant, charging the same offense, was sent to Fayetteville for the arrest of Samuel R. Hardison, brother of the first defendant.

The victim was treated in a Williamston hospital and released following an examination and treatment Monday morning.

Samuel Hardison and an army acquaintance whose name could not be learned, came to the county from Fort Bragg to spend the week-end with Hardison's relatives. Sunday evening the two army men got Hardison's brother, James, to take them to Fort Bragg. Accompanied by Rachel Lee Bailey, Johnny Hardison and Meredith Cherry and the victim, the two army men and James Hardison started for Fort Bragg Sunday evening.

They stopped near Wilson where Samuel Hardison allegedly attacked the young girl. The two soldiers are said to have decided to leave the party there.

On the return trip, James Hardison got his brother to drive and in or near Rocky Mount James allegedly attacked the girl in the back seat while the other three were in the front. James allegedly attacked her again near Everetts.

According to Sheriff M. W. Holloman, the Bailey girl heard the girl struggling and crying, and the witness told the officer that she tried to get the boys to leave the girl alone. "But they wouldn't," she was quoted as saying.

Meredith Cherry, about 15 years old, said he heard the victim struggling and crying.

James Hardison admitted the attacks, but denied employing force. No statement could be had from the other alleged attacker. Sheriff Johnson of Cumberland County told Sheriff Holloman over the telephone Monday that he would contact army authorities and call for Hardison's arrest. A warrant was mailed there earlier in the day.

About 2:30 o'clock Monday morning, the youthful victim was put out of the car in the road near her home in the Bear Grass section. She went into the house crying. (Continued on page eight)

Representative Gets Assignments

E. G. Anderson, Martin County's representative in the State Legislature, drew some good committee assignments from House Speaker Frank Taylor last week. Mr. Anderson holds places on eight committees, many of them in major listings.

He is a member of the following committees: finance, agriculture, counties, cities and towns, public utilities, salaries and fees, corporations, public buildings and grounds, penal institutions and public welfare.

Anderson, who sided with loser Fred Royster in the fight for the House speakership, failed to be tapped by Speaker Frank Taylor for the chairmanship of any committee. Assignment to the agriculture, utilities, and welfare committees—in addition to finance—seems to indicate, however, that the speaker was not vindictive against those who were against him for the House's number one job.

Charged With Theft Of Several Chickens

Charged with the theft of several chickens from James Best near Hassell last Saturday night, Thad Clark was arrested and placed in the county jail Monday morning by Deputies Raymond Rawls and Cecil Bullock.

Clark, seeing the officers as they approached, ran into Lee Perkins' home and crawled under the bed.

General Assembly Starts First Full Week

Elimination of Sales Tax Exemptions Proposed By the Governor

Raleigh—The General Assembly wound up its first full week with an air of readiness to settle down to the serious work of fixing State spending and taxing policies for the next two years.

The joint appropriations committee had its first get-together and heard Assistant Director of the Budget Dave Coltrane outline the balanced \$303,000,000 General Fund budget.

"There was no desire on the part of the governor or any member of the Advisory Budget Commission to cut out any items," he said. "There wasn't any more money—it's up to the legislature to find that money if it wants these extra services."

Coltrane advised against contingent pay raises, which he said "defeat the purpose of the budget act"; said completion of buildings—already appropriated for—would cost 30 to 40 percent more than allotted; declared that an increase of estimated income would endanger the whole budget.

He held open the door to increasing estimated income—now tabbed at \$292,000,000 for the next two years—saying a better picture would be available when the income tax payments came due March 15.

On the finance committee front Revenue Commissioner Eugene Shaw reviewed the State's fiscal policy, which he said was sound.

The finance committee is the most powerful of the legislature, he said, because it has the power to levy taxes. He said there has been no deficit spending in North Carolina; called for three "E's" in taxation—Efficiency, Enforcement, and Equality—noted that the teachers will get their \$7,000,000 contingency pay raise at the end of this fiscal year June 30, and said that three-fourths of the general fund revenue comes from the income and sales taxes.

Senator Grady Rankin of Gaston called for appointment of an Appropriations sub-committee to "restudy" the upstart balance of permanent improvements authorized by the 1947 and 1949 Legislatures. This totals some \$30,000,000 worth of building slated for school institutions, universities and colleges, N. C. State Fair, and other units of the State government. Rankin wanted this sub-committee to make recommendations as to advisability of continuing or eliminating some of these appropriations.

New state-wide bills introduced included: One sponsored by Rep. Winfield of Forsyth to set up a "Better Government Commission" to study the administrative agencies (Continued on page eight)

Hog Wrecks Car On Highway 64 Monday

A loose hog ran into the highway and wrecked H. M. (Buck) Ayers' car between Williamston and Everetts late Monday afternoon. No one was hurt, but damage to the car was estimated at \$75 by Cpl. T. Fearing of the Highway Patrol.

It was the ninth accident reported on the streets and highways in this county since last Tuesday.

ROUND-UP

Crime, including one of the most sordid and degrading acts in all the books, broke loose in the county last week-end. Twelve persons were arrested and jailed, warrants are pending in several other cases.

Five were arrested for public drunkenness, two for assault, and one each for fornication and adultery, investigation receiving and operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Six were white, and the ages ranged from a low of 17 to a high of 59 years.

High Costs Threaten School Buildings In Martin County

Asking Martin Farmers To Plant 6,000 Cotton Acres

In a public meeting held in the courthouse last Thursday afternoon, an appeal was directed to Martin County farmers, asking them to plant approximately 6,000 acres of cotton this year to help rebuild rapidly diminishing stocks. Last year they planted 3,400 acres but harvested the smallest number of bales in many years. It is expected that the acreage will be increased this year, and that plans will be made to poison the crop more extensively in an effort to check the boll weevil.

Attended by cotton farmers, farm agents, fertilizer men and representatives of insecticide manufacturers, the meeting last Thursday heard the cotton situation discussed from several angles. It was pointed out that farmers right here in this county produced

more than a bale per acre by careful poisoning the weevils.

The government is recommending an acreage this year that will produce sixteen million bales. There are no allotments and regardless of plantings, the entire crop will be supported at 90 percent of parity, meaning that at least 32 cents will be paid for every pound. By the time the 1951 crop starts moving to market there'll be less than one million bales of cotton on hand. It is believed that farmers in this county can plant 6,000 acres to the crop without creating hardships or upsetting the farm program.

R. T. Griffin, chairman of the Martin P.-M. A. committee, and T. B. Brandon were named to work with various groups, looking toward an increased cotton acreage in the county this year.

Delay Action On Contract for New Health Building

Health Center Bids About \$9,000 Above Latest Estimates

While the education board is tussling with a \$60,000 building problem, the Martin County Commissioners had a \$9,000 problem dumped into their lap last Friday afternoon when they opened bids for the construction of a county health center. The low bid on the general construction was submitted by J. T. Hardison of Washington and amounted to \$34,982. J. N. Bryan and Son of Raleigh were next with a bid of \$35,083, and P. S. West Construction Company of Greenville was third with a bid of \$36,550.

Hub Electric Company of Greenville was low bidder on the electrical contract with a price of \$4,673, and C. J. Demers of New Bern was next with a bid of \$4,985.

Cory Plumbing and Heating Company of Williamston was low bidder on the plumbing contract. C. L. Russ was second with a bid of \$5,257, and Rural Plumbing and Heating Company was third with a \$5,766.61 bid.

C. L. Russ of Greenville was low bidder on the heating contract with a price of \$5,360, and Rural Plumbing and Heating Company was second with a bid of \$7,755.96.

The cost of the building, including wiring, plumbing and heating, amounted to \$50,025. The architect's fees boosted the cost by \$3,015.30. Equipment added \$4,500 to the cost, and an emergency fund boosted the total by \$1,229.70, making a grand total cost of \$59,000.

The Medical Care Commission has agreed to pay \$36,318.15 on the building, leaving the county to finance \$22,681.85 of the cost. Discussing the bids, the commissioners agreed to appeal to the Commission for funds. During the meantime, the architect was instructed to confer with the low bidders and see if alterations could be made in an effort to reduce the costs.

It is possible that two or three thousand dollars or possibly more can be saved by eliminating certain items, but it is fairly definite that the county will have to absorb the excess costs if the contracts submitted last Friday are (Continued on page eight)

Badly Cut In Freak Accident Here Friday

Levi Hill, colored, was badly cut on the arm by Odel Hart, also colored, at the Hitching Post cafe on Sycamore Street here last Friday night. And it was just an accident, it was reported.

A knife was planted deep in the victim's arm and several blood vessels caused him to lose much blood.

Board Proposing To Limit Program To Two Projects

School Contracts, After Cuts, Are \$60,000 Above Allotments

Sky-high costs are just about to upset a proposed public building program in this county, and officials admittedly know not which way to turn or just what to do. At the present time, contracts are pending the outcome of appeals for more funds and building plan alterations.

Last week when the county board of education opened bids on three school projects, costs exceeded allotments by more than \$30,000. The architect revised the plans and cut costs by \$29,781.00. But the action left the costs about \$60,000 above allotments, and unless that amount can be found some where, at least part of the program is doomed.

Upon a motion by Board Member Cecil Powell, seconded by Member Ernest Edmondson and supported by Member F. W. Holliday, the board ordered contracts be let for the construction of a Negro school in Williamston and a gymnasium in Robersonville, leaving the contract for an addition to the Williamston high school building to be left if funds can be made available. The board chairman, J. D. Woolard, was instructed to meet and discuss the problem with the county commissioners last Friday. All the commissioners were not present for the special meeting at that time, and the matter was delayed until tomorrow when the commissioners are to meet in a second special session.

The meeting, attended by J. D. Woolard, chairman, and Cecil Powell, Ernest Edmondson and Ferd W. Holliday, lasted for about three hours. Board Member Geo. Griffin was unable to attend on account of illness.

Discussing the projects with the board, Architect Griffith of Greenville said that \$29,781 could be saved by eliminating the proposed addition to the Williamston white school building. A detailed schedule of reductions follows: Williamston addition—General contract: change roof construction to wood to save \$2,400.00; omit shop wing to save \$14,000.00; electrical contract: change roof construction to wood, adding \$150.00; omit shop wing, saving \$725.00; plumbing contract: omit shop wing, saving \$89.00; heating contract, omit shop wing, saving \$1,308.00; use unit heaters in cafe, saving \$651.00.

Robersonville gymnasium—General contract: change roof construction to wood, saving \$2,700.00; omit cafe rolling door, saving \$400.00; electrical contract: change roof construction to wood, adding \$117.00; plumbing contract, no changes; heating contract, no changes.

Williamston Colored Elementary school—General contract: change roof construction to wood, saving \$4,500.00; electrical contract: change roof construction to wood, adding \$125.00; no changes in plumbing contract or heating (Continued on page eight)

Plan Second Draft Board For County

In the event of a complete national emergency, a second draft board would be created in this county, according to information coming from the office of State Selective Service Director T. H. Upton in Raleigh. The number of boards in the State would be increased, under the new plan, to 257.

Martin County would be divided into two districts with the possibility that Jamesville, Williams, Griffins, Bear Grass and Williamston forming one, and Cross Roads, Robersonville, Popular Point, Hamilton and Goose Nest forming the other.



Frank Dean Goes On Spree, Putting One In Hospital

Jesse Rascoe Recovering In Hospital From a Bad Head Wound

Said to have gone crazy mad, Frank Deans, young colored man, cleaned things up around the Little Savoy cafe on Washington Street here early last Saturday night. But the action cost him quite a bit of blood and gained him a place in the county jail.

The nature of the trouble, marking the beginning of a wild attack, has not been disclosed. At first, it was thought Deans was playing, but a short time later the blood started spurting and witnesses said they knew he meant sure enough business.

Arthur Lee Jones said Deans hit him with a board. "I thought he was playing, but play or no play, I left for home," Jones was quoted as saying.

Deans next turned on James Goss and bit him in the chest.

Offering no cause for the action, Deans said Jesse Rascoe started on him with a knife, that he (Deans) crowned him over the head with a board, cracking the man's skull in two places and sending him to the hospital. Rascoe was said to have responded to treatment, and is expected to recover.

Deans, still a bit hazy about how it all happened, says he was cut when he fell down on some glass. There was several-stitch gash in his left leg, and cuts on both hands and both arms. Following hospital treatment, he was placed in jail.

About that time, a free-for-all fight was taking place not far away, but details could not be had.

Miss Green Joins The Bear Grass Faculty

Miss Billie Green of Gates has joined the Bear Grass faculty and entered her new duties in the social science and physical education departments Monday morning.

Miss Green was just recently graduated from East Carolina Teachers College, Greenville, and is making her home with Mrs. Effie Rogers.