

## Weekly Legislative Summary

When the Senate and House adjourned on Friday the total number of bills introduced in this session had reached 1052, 754 of them in the House, 298 in the Senate. On the same legislative day in 1945 the total had reached 1287. Thus this session continues to lag behind its immediate predecessor so far as the bulk of legislation is concerned. Of the 1052 bills introduced this year, 584, or something more than 50 per cent of them have been local in nature. This situation will be up for study if the General Assembly passes HB 751 introduced on Friday calling for a commission whose business it would be to consider the whole problem of local legislation and to make recommendations as to the passage of general laws on subjects most often embraced in local bills.

The tenth legislative week was marked by the reappearance of the big "money" bills on the floor of the General Assembly. The Finance and Appropriations committees of both houses have reported out their recommendations on the Revenue, Appropriations and Post War Reserve Fund bills. No sooner had the Revenue Bill been released for debate in the House than some members began to assault it with amendments: there were efforts to insure that Confederate widows and veterans get a \$9-a-month pension raise, to restore theatre taxes to their 1939 schedule, and to restore the 25c reduction in the corporate franchise tax rate made by the original bill. All of them failed although the introduction of SB 275 on Thursday, to give totally blind and helpless confederate widows a pension increase, indicates that the friends of Confederate widows are not yet ready to concede defeat. Representative Mull was more successful than his colleagues: by a close vote he succeeded in amending the Revenue

Bill so as to prohibit the sale of wine and to closely regulate the sale of beer in his home county of Cleveland. The following day, stating that he had secured assurance from Finance Committee leaders that they would give favorable ear to his local bill to the same effect, Mr. Mull withdrew his amendment leaving the committee's bill unscathed. And so it left the House to be considered in the Senate early next week.

The Appropriations Bill left committee with a net increase in appropriations of \$8,013,794. Of this figure, \$6,155,000 is accounted for by the raise in teachers' salaries. The bulk of the remaining \$1,858,794 would go to the State Board of Health, the Department of Conservation and Development (this despite its loss of the Division of Game and Inland Fisheries), to the Board of Charities and Public Welfare for old age assistance and aid to dependent children, to the Retirement System to take care of contributions for State employees, to increase State aid to public libraries, to the Department of Agriculture and to the Cooperative Agricultural Extension division at State College. The Department of Labor, the Industrial Commission, the Commission for the Blind, four State-supported colleges, four State hospitals, two orphanages, and State vocational education work absorb most of the rest. The only new item added in committee is a \$48,000 appropriation for Pure Food Control work in the Department of Agriculture in the next two years. Appropriations for indigent care work of the Medical Care Commission and the veteran's records project of the Department of Archives and History were the only items in the original bill to suffer reduction (a total of \$389,740) at the hands of the committee. Both the House and Senate defeated efforts to amend the bill to increase the \$102,418,430 earmarked for instructional salaries despite strong efforts to convince the representatives and senators that this sum might fall short of the 30 per cent increase desired. Thus, amended only to delete a requirement allocating 50 per cent of the library aid appropriation on the basis of population, and to give law-bracket State employees preference in the 20 per cent raise, the Appropriations Bill passed both houses.

The bill bringing the Post War Reserve Fund to an approximate \$30,000,000 by adding \$9,300,000 thereto passed both the Senate and House without amendment. The Permanent Improvements Appropriation Bill remains in committee where the problems incident to the Medical Care Program, especially the four-year medical school and teaching hospital at Chapel Hill, may bring on prolonged discussion. Indeed this bill offers the principal controversy remaining before the legislature.

Several new bills of general interest have been introduced this week: SB 250 (HB 604) would establish a vocational training school for veterans at Camp Butler; HR 703 would establish a commission to investigate State-created examining boards with licensing power; HB 630 would authorize the establishment of a two-year medical school at the North Carolina College at Durham for the training of negroes; SB 265 (HB 726) would appropriate \$1,000,000 for improvements to North Carolina

## Two Veterans In Marathon



WORLD WAR II VETERANS Bob Fecht (right) of Highland, Wis., and Andy Bied of Burlington, Iowa, are shown at a Davenport, Iowa, restaurant fulfilling a pledge "to eat everything on the menu"—a pledge made when they were prisoners in a Nazi camp. Serving them is Ted Driskell, proprietor of the restaurant. Mayor Arthur R. Kroppach (left) acted as official referee. Although the vets consumed a great deal of food they failed to eat "everything on the menu." (International)

## 'GENTLE' BULL SAFE LIKE 'UNLOADED' GUN

You can never trust a bull!

The "gentle bull" is too often the one which acts at unexpected moments, goes someone to death or inflicts serious injury says David S. Weaver, head of the Agricultural Engineering department, State College.

One of the principal safety rules with bulls is to handle them as little as possible, according to Weaver. With a well-constructed bull pen, any bull can be handled safely. The gates and doors, as well as facilities for feeding, watering, and breeding, can be arranged so there is no need for the caretaker to expose himself to attack.

The complete layout consists of an oblong exercise pen connected to a shelter and breeding chute. As an additional safety feature, the bottom fence rail should clear the ground by at least twelve inches so that a man can escape if he should get trapped in the pen. Upright safety escape openings are sometimes provided at the chute and at the corners.

Always ring bulls at an early age and replace worn or weakened rings. A bull is less dangerous when dehorned. When ringing and de-horning, always have the animal securely fastened, Weaver says.

When it is necessary to lead a bull, always use a staff so you can keep him at a safe distance.

Never let a bull run with the herd. Besides being hazardous for people, it is injurious to the bull.

## Interest Of Citizens In Library Appreciated

The Fontana Regional Library wishes to express thanks to the many custodians and patrons who by word of mouth, letter, note, or telegram to our Legislators, took part in the effort to obtain an increased appropriation for State Aid to Public Libraries. Word has been received that an appropriation of \$275,000 for each of the next two years has been approved. This means a total of \$2600 per county for each year will be available to help improve all public library service. The interest shown in this effort proves that libraries are really meaning something in the lives of our people.

## Wilson Infant Dies

Funeral services were held Sunday, March 9, at the Zion Hill Baptist church for John Ray Wilson, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Dexter Wilson. The baby died Saturday the 8th after a short illness.

Burial was in the Zion Hill cemetery.

ports; SB 285 (HB 744) dealing with the licensing and regulation of hospitals and the general medical care program; and SB 286 (HB 748) regulating the sale of insecticides.

By affixing their signatures the presiding officers of the two houses turned 56 bills into laws this week. At least one bill of major interest was finally laid to rest: SB 200, the second Senate bill calling for a statewide liquor referendum, was reported unfavorably by the Senate Finance Committee. The House liquor referendum bill still rests in committee.

Legislative leaders now speak with some confidence of adjournment on or before April 5th. It may be done, but if so it will probably be because the presiding officers have more success with turning the clocks back than Canute had with the sea.

## Springtime On the Farm

Hurry, there, you winter blizzards, Pack yer duds and be about, Don't you see the trees are buddin' And the grass is creepin' out?

For the frogs, they are croakin' In the marshes by the mill, And the bees, they are hummin' Round the blossoms on the hill.

In the yards, the birds are quar'lin' About where they'll build their nest.

In the meadow lambs are friskin' In their spring suits, newly dressed.

Now the farm boy of a mornin' Hitches up his old gray mare And whistles off to his plowin', Because spring-time's in the air.

The days now are gettin' longer, And the sun is shinin' warm, And a feller feels like livin' When its spring-time on the farm.

Author unknown.

## Enjoy Spring Driving . . .

● Let us give your car a thorough check-up for the smoothest, safest spring driving ever!



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