

**Legislative**  
(Continued from Page One)

government, and to tell something of her admiration for North Carolina. That afternoon most members went to Greenville for a celebration incident to the opening of East Carolina College buildings honoring J. Y. Joyner and Clyde A. Erwin. On Wednesday morning the members held a brief birthday party for Governor Hodges in the Hall of the House. On Friday Mr. John Motley Morehead, founder of the scholarships that bear his name, appeared and made a few remarks in both houses. On the same day members voted to accept an invitation from General Cleland, Fort Bragg commander, to spend April 6 as guests of the Army at the reservation. Talking about these breaks in legislative routine takes almost as much time as the events themselves. As the remains of this bulletin should demonstrate, there has been no reduction in committee work — the activity that has more bearing on legislative progress than any other.

**REGULATION OF BUSINESSES, TRADES AND PROFESSIONS**

Additional businesses would be regulated and some now regulated would come in for additional regulation if all bills acted on this week become law. Milk and eggs have received much legislative attention. SB 88, usually called the egg law, has cleared both houses; it is primarily designed to empower the Commissioner of Agriculture to set quality standards and prevent false labeling of eggs sold in this state. The Senate's milk bill was amended in the House to remove the price-fixing power of the Milk Commission and to substitute a prohibition against selling milk below cost to injure competition. The Senate did not agree to the House changes, and conferees have been appointed. As a backlash from Hurricane Hazel, the House has received a bill to require the Insurance Commissioner to investigate insurance company settlements of claims arising from the October catastrophe and especially the recent refusal of companies to issue policies in the affected areas. He would have to make his report to the General Assembly by April 8. A new Senate bill would authorize the Agriculture Commissioner to regulate the sale and use of liquefied petroleum gases under minimum standards of safety set up by national associations. One of this week's House bills aimed at raising the educational standards for practical nurses would require all persons applying for practical nurses licenses after July 1, 1956, to have training approved by the nurses' board. Still another House bill would create a State Board of Refrigeration Examiners and require all persons desiring to engage in the refrigeration business in towns of more than 3,500 to obtain a license from the board. Persons not now engaged in an established refrigeration business would be required to pass an examination before they could be licensed.

**TAXES**

Six new tax bills were placed before the legislature this week, three in the House and three in the Senate. The bills were also equally divided in their effect on the state's revenue with three designed to increase tax yields, and three which would have the contrary effect. Perhaps prompted by information developed in hearings before the Joint Finance Committee that bus companies are in need of some tax relief, identical bills were introduced on Wednesday which would reduce the gross receipt tax on passenger carriers from 6% to 3%, with an estimated annual reduction in revenue of \$100,000. On the same day, Senator Morgan of Cleveland introduced a bill to require cooperatives to pay franchise and privilege license taxes equivalent to those paid by other corporations, and to include in co-op taxable income the interest paid to stockholders. Rep. Yarbrough of Cumberland sent forward a proposal in the House to remove the \$15 limit on the 3% sales tax, and impose a 1% sales tax, up to \$80 maximum tax, on motor vehicles. It is estimated that \$14 million a year in new revenue would be realized from the tax on motor vehicle sales. The other new tax bills would have the most far-reaching effect so far as the number of taxpayers is concerned. As a substitute for a tax on tobacco products, Rep. Worthington introduced a bill to raise all individual income tax rates 1%. Senator Reynolds offered his second proposal to allow some relief on state individual income taxes. His bill would permit, on individual income tax returns, deduction of federal income tax payments up to \$250 for 1955 and \$500 each year thereafter. Thursday, it was announced the Joint Finance Committee has scheduled this coming Wednesday as the final day of public hearings on the various tax proposals. This indicates the Committee may soon get

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down to specific decisions on some of the tax bills before it.

**MOTOR VEHICLES**

This week the battle of the "whammy" again came to the forefront. Wednesday the House Roads Committee heard Rep. Tom White characterize the whammy as "push-button justice" and "ambush" and Motor Vehicles Commissioner Ed Scheidt vigorously replied, but the committee took no vote on the bill to restrict use of the device. Thursday the Senate, following a parliamentary skirmish the day before passed and sent to the House a bill to grant hearings prior to suspension of a driver's license. The same day, a similar Senate bill was introduced, which would in addition eliminate all mandatory driver license revocations except for felonies and drunken driving. Two other Senate bills are designed to facilitate handling of traffic cases by broadening jurisdiction of inferior courts, especially needed according to proponents in counties where superior courts meet infrequently. House trailers came in for attention in two proposals. A House bill from Rep. Venters would increase the length of a house trailer and its towing vehicle to 55 feet, thus making it the longest regularly authorized vehicle combination on the highways. Part of a bill introduced by Rep. O'Herron would reduce the maximum speed of vehicles towing house trailers to 45 mph, and another section of the same bill would require that a driver not only stop but also yield the right of way at a stop sign. Reps. Whitley and Pou of Wake (recently the scene of a widely-publicized fatal racing accident) have introduced a bill to outlaw street and highway racing. Other measures sent forward would correct deficiencies in the vehicle equipment statutes (by requiring adequate steering gear and forbidding use of tires with fabric or bulges showing) and would authorize special re-examinations of mentally and physically handicapped drivers, and drivers with serious accident and violations records.

**RETIREMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY**

Public employees may soon be able to vote to come under the extended coverage of OASI (Social Security). Bill introduced in the House would empower the Governor to call a referendum among members of the Teachers and State Employees Retirement System, Local Government Employees Retirement System, and other retirement systems set up by the state or a political subdivision. Before voting, employees would be furnished a statement of their rights and liabilities under OASI. The bills declare a legislative policy that persons receiving retirement benefits when OASI goes into effect are not to have their protection impaired.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Rep. Powell of Rockingham has introduced a bill submitting to the people a constitutional amendment requiring the Secretary of State to report the House after each federal census under the present constitutional formula. Rep. Satterfield has proposed a bill which would prohibit the state from spending any public funds for the operation or maintenance of any public school in which the pupils of the white and Negro races are mixed. Following passage of the judicial redistricting bill, another Judicial Council proposal has been introduced; this one would divide the new judicial districts into four divisions rather than the present two.

**Weekly Legislative Bulletin**

Included in this Bulletin is a digest of all local legislation introduced or acted upon by the General Assembly during the week ending March 12, 1955, affecting your county or any municipality therein.

**MADISON COUNTY**

SB 218 — Introduced by Winters, March 8 (County accountant as clerk) March 9, passed Senate; March 10, received in House; sent to



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**YOUNG CIGAR-SMOKER**

Boston, Mass. — John J. Connolly, Juvenile Court judge, recently saw a little boy, sitting in a doorway, puffing on a cigar. He casually asked, "Son, why aren't you in school?" The little boy took the cigar out of his mouth and replied, "Mister, I'm too young to go to school."

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Counties, Cities, and Towns.  
SB 235 — Introduced by Winters, March 7 "Amending G.S. 9-1 so as to provide for the selection of jurors by a jury commissioner in Madison County and for the appointment of said commissioner by the resident judge." (Repeals Ch. 1122, Session Laws 1951, (providing for selection of jurors by commission) and amends GS 9-1 to provide for juror selection by commissioner to be appointed for 4-year term by resident superior court judge, successor to be appointed by and serve at pleasure of resident judge. Jury commissioner's salary is \$10 per day and county commissioners may employ and fix compensation of assistant. Jury list is no longer limited to taxpayers.) To Court and Judicial Districts.  
HB 537 — Introduced by Holcombe and Bennett, Mar. 11 "Amend GS112-111 so as to add the counties of Madison and Yancey to the counties in which there is no closed season for fox hunting." (As title indicates.) To Wildlife Resources.  
HB 538 — Introduced by Holcombe March 11 "To appoint the members of the board of education of Madison County." (Appoints Clyde Brown, Chan Baldwin, William Roberts, Zeno Ponder, and W. T. Moore as members of board for 4-year terms ending on first Monday in April, 1959. Appointees are required to qualify by taking oath of office on or before first Monday in April, 1955.) To Education.

**PLENTY OF PREFABS IN 1955**  
Anybody who buys a newly built house this year has one good chance in ten of ending up mortgaged for a prefab. According to industry forecasts, about 100,000 prefabs will be produced this year. About 75,000 will cost up to \$12,000. The other 25,000 will cost over this figure.  
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