

PLANS LAID FOR "KICKOFF DINNER"



Plans for a "kickoff dinner" February 3 at Sedgfield Inn near Greensboro, preceding "Statewide Reorganization Week" February 16-18 of the Young Democratic Clubs of North Carolina were formed by key officials of the organization at a weekend meeting. The Statewide "Kickoff Dinner" will be followed by local chapter dinners throughout North Carolina. It was also announced following the Gastonia weekend planning meeting that the Young Democrats will actively support legislation now before the 1947 General Assembly to lower the voting age in North Carolina from 21 to 18. Shown here, in a scene snapped during the preliminary conference are Frank Freeman of Dobson, Surrey County, Statewide reorganization of the Young Democrats; Basil L. Whitener of Gastonia, President; and Stewart Atkins, legislative chairman.

Faison News

MRS. A. R. HICKS, JR.
Reporter
Subscription Agent

Auxiliary Meets

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church met Monday afternoon at the home of Misses Elizabeth and Kate Hicks. The President, Mrs. T. W. Devane presided. After a business meeting the program followed, in charge of Mrs. J. B. Stroud, whose subject was "What Is My Church Doing About World Peace?"

Mrs. W. T. Hines, Secretary of Foreign Missions, gave an article on the "Reconstruction of China."

B. M. S. Meets

The Baptist Missionary Society met Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. L. D. Groome with the president, Miss Beulah Martin in the chair and gave the devotional. The program "Pagan Religions"

was presented by Mrs. Groome. During a social hour the hostess served a salad plate with tea.

Mrs. Faison Hostess To "Fellow-Poets"

Mrs. I. R. Faison was hostess to the "Fellow Poets" Saturday afternoon. The president, Miss Sallie Hill had charge of the meeting who also presented the program on Poetry Drama. Original poems were read and at the conclusion of the meeting a delicious salad plate with tea was served.

Entertains Sewing Club Thursday

Mrs. C. A. Decker entertained the Sewing Club Thursday afternoon. During a social hour a salad course with tea was served by the hostess.

Personals

Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Williamson and two sons and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Scott of Kenansville were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Precythe Sunday.

Mrs. C. D. Lee was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Andrews in Goldsboro Tuesday.

Mrs. E. E. Bowman was a visitor in Wilmington Monday.

Dudley Martin a student at the University, Chapel Hill, spent the week end with his aunt, Miss Sallie Hill.

Mrs. C. D. McCullen spent Thursday in Wilmington.

Mrs. John Hoey has returned home after visiting relatives in Graham.

Mrs. J. J. Gibbons of Wilson was the week end guest of her sister, Mrs. C. S. Hines.

Mrs. I. R. Faison, Mrs. I. H. Hines and J. M. Faison spent Friday in Raleigh.

Graham Newton, student at Davidson, spent several days last week here.

Mesdames D. Newton, J. E. Faison, C. A. Decker, A. P. Cates and Graham Newton spent Friday in Goldsboro.

Mrs. Tom Faison, Mrs. D. Newton and Mrs. Edward Bailey were visitors in Raleigh Wednesday.

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Institute Of Government

Even before the '45 session of the General Assembly adjourned sine die, observers were expressing the opinion that the issue concerning the pay of State employees in general and public school teachers in particular would occupy much of the time and attention of the 1947 legislature. The opinion of those observers has already been more than borne out: this session has already seen a supplementary pay bill for the balance of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1947 passed by the Senate as introduced (providing for a 20% average increase for the "lower" brackets for the last 6 months of the 1946-47 fiscal year), amended by the House after strenuous argument to provide increases ranging up to 30%; has already seen the Senate reject the House amendment and throw the bill into conference; has seen the Senate adopt the conference report which would have appropriated within an approximate \$100,000 of the estimated \$8,150,000 additional cost to the general Fund of the supplementary pay bill as amended in the House; has also seen the House by a decided and apparently determined majority reject the same conference report because it did not give the lower bracket employees (those now earning up to \$2,700 per year), and especially public school teachers, the percentage increase provided by the House amendment; has seen additional conferees appointed in both House and Senate; has seen those conferees bring in a report which was promptly adopted by both House and Senate, which report was a victory for all and a defeat for none; the "administration forces" succeeded in holding off an Act which would seem to provide increases above 20% in the lower brackets by having the additional salary payments cover a longer period than 6 months and by having the salary additions called "emergency bonuses" instead of "emergency salaries", and the proponents of the House amendment got within a very few dollars per month in each bracket for which they were contending -- all this, while both conference reports explicitly and solemnly declared that nothing in either report, nor any vote on either report, would bind anyone when it came to the consideration of the biennial appropriations bill -- the bill which would determine teachers' and State employees' pay for the next biennium.

All this, of course, was technically unfinished business of the 1945 session, but it may have proved to have been something like a testing-ground for this session: in spite of the declaration of both conference reports on the supplementary pay bill that no precedents were being set, both sides acted quite definitely as if a principle were involved, and up to now, neither side has admitted either by word or deed that it has abandoned its principle. And in the meanwhile, opposing and even confusing lines are being formed: the administration seems determined to hold the "20% line," the "regular" education forces seem to be equally determined to bend it, at least upward to 30% for the "lower" (teacher) brackets, while the "South Piedmont Group," having not only organized into a coherent and articulate group but having also engaged separate and influential lobbyists, seems determined to surge well upward through even the 30% formula.

During the past week, the General Assembly received other bills dealing with school teachers: HB 73 would permit any student at any of the State-supported institutions of higher learning to give a note for tuition fees for not over 4 academic years, if he is a resident of the State, enrolls for a course leading to a teacher's certificate, and signs an agreement to teach in the public schools of North Carolina for a corresponding length of time, with note to be cancellable or payable in proportion to the time actually spent teaching; HB 90, which would provide free tuition at summer school, conducted by State institutions for teachers having contracts to teach during the ensuing year and who would agree to teach, notes given for such tuition to be cancelled upon compliance with the teaching agreement otherwise to be payable with 4% interest from date; and SB 36 which would allow teachers, principals and superintendents to deduct from gross income for State income tax purposes, the "ordinary, necessary expenses" for attending summer schools.

Besides the teachers' summer school tax deduction noted above, another tax bill introduced during the past week would permit a taxpayer to deduct from gross income the amount of \$600 or the amount of Federal income taxes actually paid or accrued during the income year, whichever is smaller.

Other bills introduced during the week would: make a number of administrative and some substantial changes in the law relating to the arbitration service of the Department of Labor; bar all city and county ad valorem tax liens for taxes assessed for the year 1938 and all prior years (as introduced, the bill would become effective upon ratification); permit boards of county commissioners to postpone or defer the revaluation of real property for taxation for the years 1947 and 1948; enact a comprehensive automobile driver's financial responsibility law; rewrite the law on adoptions; amend the law relating to the interstate transfer of children; provide a refund of 5 cents of the 5 cent gasoline tax paid by municipalities on their gasoline purchases; make conviction of husband or wife of a felony a ground for absolute divorce; amend the law relative to juries to permit jurors to be drawn from any reliable list, such as telephone directories, city directories, etc., and make other changes necessitated by the new Constitutional qualification of women as jurors, also

making jury service optional with women called for service; rewrite many provisions of the election law; make numerous changes with respect to the law governing franchises, haulers and bus carriers; repeal the contingent liability of the Highway Fund to the General

for the equivalent of the 3% sales tax on gasoline sales; raise the age, at which males and females may marry without parental consent from 16 to 18 years of age and change other age limits somewhat accordingly; and amend the law dealing with the legitimation of children born out of wedlock and the results growing from such legitimation.

Also during the week -- and it comes as something of a surprise to those who thought that the \$1.1 million dollar General Fund debt retirement appropriation of 1945 took care of all of the General Fund bonded indebtedness -- a bill was introduced to authorize the State Treasurer "to pay certain bonds at the exchange rate -- according to chapter 98 of the Public Laws of 1933," and to validate settlements heretofore made upon the same basis. The bonds referred to are Civil War and early Reconstruction period issues. They seem to die hard, these bonded indebtednesses.

Sister Duplinites Dies Suddenly

Mrs. Daisy Lee Riggs, 51, of Kingston, wife of Royal H. Riggs, died suddenly at Queen Street Inn Sunday night. Funeral services were held from Garner's Funeral Home at 11 a. m. Tuesday, with interment in the Riggs Cemetery near Mayaville. The Rev. Clifton T. Rice, Free Will Baptist minister, officiated. Surviving are her husband, and four sisters, Mrs. Sidney Kennedy of Pink Hill, Mrs. Andrew Brinson of Richlands, Mrs. J. C. Garris of Beulaville and Mrs. Nora Lear of Washington, D. C.



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