

Lore of old capitol is recalled; Gavin seen safe in chairmanship

By Cliff Blue
HISTORIC . . . This week will be historic in North Carolina legislative history. It will mark the first time since 1840 that a General Assembly has convened other than in the State Capitol building which is regarded by many as one of the outstanding buildings in the nation. Gutzon Borglum, the famed sculptor, once said of the building: "I consider that there is no building in the country of its size which for color, for care in construction, and purity of style is its superior."

When I entered the legislature as a freshman in 1947, a legislative commission presented its report which recommended that the present Capitol building be enlarged to provide more adequate space for the legislature and for committee meeting rooms. This proposal to tamper with the old Capitol building caused groups, and particularly women's organizations all over the state to rise up in protest against any tampering with building.

The matter of a new or enlarged capitol or State House lay fairly dormant until the Hodges Administration when he gave full support to the idea of a new State House.

COST . . . The present Capitol Building was constructed over an eight-year period from 1833 to 1840 at a cost of about \$591,000. That sum in those early days was probably less on a per capita income basis than the new \$6,000,000 plus State House is costing.

Even though labor was cheap 125 years ago, you can with modern skills and machinery build so much faster now than

when wheel-barrow and buckets were so dominant in the building trade.

BRITAIN & FANCE . . . It's hard to understand why General Charles De Gaulle has turned his back on Great Britain which twice helped save France from conquest by Germany. In recent years General De Gaulle has served as a strongman which France sorely needed. But we suspect that he is getting a little too big for his breeches, to use an old but apt expression.

But, in the long-run, our thinking is that Great Britain will be able to take care of itself. History has proved that she is quite resourceful.

EASTERN CAROLINA COLLEGE . . . Recently it was my privilege and opportunity to visit in Pitt County and while there I visited and talked with Dr. Leo Jenkins, President of Eastern Carolina College. In recent years ECC has grown by leaps and bounds with some 5,600 students now enrolled there. Dr. Jenkins told me that the freshmen applications for the 1963-64 terms were some 600 ahead of the number a year ago. Eastern Carolina College is providing quality education at the lowest per capita cost of any state-operated institution of higher learning in North Carolina.

CARL GOERCH . . . After skipping a session or two, Carl Goerch will be back broadcasting doings of the legislature via television and radio over WRAL channel 5, Monday through Friday of each week. Carl is a favorite with legislators.

WALTER JONES . . . Former State Rep. Walter Jones of Pitt County is conducting each Sunday a television program over channel Nine, interviewing Eastern legislators on doings of the General Assembly. Walter, who dropped out of the House to run for Congress in the First District in 1960, is regarded as a possible candidate for the Congress post again in 1964, and as an almost certain candidate should Rep. Herbert Bonner de-

cide to call it quits.

BOB GAVIN . . . Some of the GOP leaders feel that State Republican Chairman Bob Gavin has garnered enough support and backing to hold on to the chairmanship until his term expires in the spring of 1964 without too much bickering from here on out. Some feel that Gavin might like another try at the governorship in 1964. However, most feel that it will go to either Charlie Jonas, or James Broyles, the new GOP congressman from the ninth district.

PEOPLE . . . W. A. (Red) Forbes, the new House member from Pitt County is already being mistaken for Ben Roney, Sanford's secondary road boss. They look very much alike. Joe Dester and Dwayne Walls, Charlotte Observer reporters certainly did an interesting and comprehensive series of articles on abuses of the absentee ballot in the West. The articles have caused considerable comment over the state.

FATHER ONG TO SPEAK

The UNC English Club will sponsor a lecture by the American Jesuit Walter J. Ong, Professor of English at Saint Louis University next Monday, Feb. 11. His lecture before the English Club will deal with one of Father Ong's main concerns: our understanding of Renaissance attitudes and modes of thought. It is entitled, "The Rhetorical Bias: Rhetoric as a Way of Life Before the Enlightenment." The lecture is open to the public and will take place at 8 p.m. in the University Faculty Club Lounge.

Local Heart Council membership is announced

Completion of a Heart Council for Orange County was announced by Carl Durham, President of the Council.

Members of the Council are Dr. Thomas C. Gibson, who will serve as Medical Representative in supplying scientific publications and information to physicians, nurses, and members of other health professions who work with heart patients; John Ulmer, publicity chairman, who will report the activities of the

Council to the public news media; Mrs. Jeanne Hoft, community programs chairman, who will be in charge of the Council's educational activities and will work with other community organizations towards a solution of local heart disease problems; John T. Wettach, Council Treasurer, who will bank and account for all funds raised for Heart in the area; and Dr. O. K. Cornwell, Memorial Gifts chairman.

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