

# The News of orange county

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## Here's assembly's gift to safety on highways

The General Assembly of North Carolina has shown a much greater concern throughout its now fast-dying session for matters of purely internal concern than it has for an issue of such compelling importance as highway safety.

While Gov. Sanford has done supremely well in shepherding his public educational program through the Legislature, it is a sad thing to note the Legislators miserable and willful failures in rejecting the administration's highway safety proposals. Of this the Charlotte Observer has said quite appropriately:

"Throughout the session, the legislators, particularly the lawyers among them, have displayed a paternalistic concern for the motoring minority which flouts the law without exhibiting much sympathy for the careful and safe majority.

"The 1963 session has done little to alleviate one of North Carolina's most pressing and depressing problems. Before the next session convenes, history tells us, more than 2,000 people will die on the highways."

It has passed a bill requiring seat belts on all new cars sold in the state as of next year.

It will likely pass a law to give chemical tests to drunken driving suspects, including in the law an amendment to favor tipsy motorists.

This Legislature has also displayed a ridiculous denial of space age living in slapping a limit — and even attempting to eliminate — the use of airplanes by the Highway Patrol.

It has delayed action on court reform, rejecting the will of the voters of North Carolina who approved this in last year's referendum.

It has killed a very modest and sensible motor vehicle safety check proposal. It has approved increasing the speed limits on some highways. It has eased the driver license requirements for persons over 60. It is balking at requirements for more stringent licensing regulations for teen-agers.

## There's one sour note in appropriations tune

In the broad consideration of its financial welfare through the years, the University has never fared better than it did in this session of the General Assembly.

The current prosperity of the State of North Carolina and its sound fiscal condition have been reflected in substantially increased appropriations for its state University. It is indeed an unusual, and a fairly cheerful situation for that University and its administration.

President Friday is pleased to admit, and the record bears out his statement, that the University got almost everything it wanted in appropriation requests from the Legislature. The normally-tense period of waiting, lobbying, and hoping during these biennial sessions was not tense this time. There was comparatively little controversy.

### A strange refusal . . .

The appropriations bill brought all important



—Walt Partymiller, York Gazette & Daily

faculty salary raises and needed increases in current expense and construction budgets. Only sour note in the sweet song of appropriations was the Assembly's strange refusal to give the University at Chapel Hill any help whatsoever in long - postponed requests for money to build a new undergraduate library-student union building and a 925-man dormitory.

Precedent was incomprehensibly reversed. That these buildings have been put up with Legislature appropriations at the University campuses in Raleigh and Greensboro could not sway the Assembly. That it has time and again in the past made appropriations for men's dormitories in Chapel Hill did not move the Assembly to grant one cent of help toward this need today.

### Soak students . . .

Instead the students themselves, for the first time in the 107-year history of the University, will have to pay the cost of these structures through fee and room rent increases. These buildings are very much needed, and worth the additional outlay on the part of the students.

But we join them, and the University administration in the fervent hope that the contradictory logic that made the Assembly so generous at one moment and niggardly at the next will not be interpreted by anybody as precedent at any future budget reckoning times.

## Bigness and goodness aren't one and same

Orange County's oldest bank will no doubt soon join the inevitable trend of the financial world of today in merging with North Carolina National Bank.

A news release issued by N. C. National this week shows the superior financial resources of that institution, in comparison to those of the Bank of Chapel Hill. The implication is that the merger will be for the over-all benefit of the community.

If the actions of government regulating agencies which control these transactions are in the public interests, as seems probable, then Chapel Hill and Orange County will be better off with the resources of the giant banking institution at hand. But, almost trite to say, bigness does not necessarily mean goodness.

Chapel Hillians will no doubt welcome the patently superior resources and services of North Carolina National to their community.

And they will also hope that "headquarters in Charlotte" will remember and retain the benefits of small-town banking that have been so effectively given through the 64 years of independent operation of the Bank of Chapel Hill.

## President's challenge to localities well given

It will be better for all citizens if Americans can work for and attain the goal of equal opportunity for all in the peaceful and constructive manner urged by President Kennedy in his address to the U. S. mayors conference in Honolulu last Monday.

Not only will this goal be easier and less unpleas-

(Editorial Continued on Page 2)

### Newsman's Notepad

## Reaction to Americanism bill was not that expected

In an erudite, educationally-oriented community such as Chapel Hill there are a good many persons who thought it fashionable to decry and curtly cast aside any serious consideration of Orange County Rep. L. J. Phipps' American government instruction bill in the General Assembly.

The General Assembly felt pretty much this way, too, in quickly rejecting the bill in the face of opposition from Superintendent of Public Instruction Charles Carroll. The Newsman, likewise, had some questions in his mind as to the need for this legislation. But he didn't feel, as a layman, that he was legitimately qualified to simply give it an editorial thumbs-down without some consideration by persons better qualified to pass judgment on it.

### Showed to six . . .

So he read a copy of the bill to six different persons, all of whom he felt might well have legitimate objections to it. One was a public school history teacher, one a school administrator, two history professors at the University, and two political scientists.

While most expressed some immediate reservations on the bill, all declared, after hearing a full reading of its provisions, that they thought it would be a good idea — "if it means and does what it says, and doesn't lend to witch hunting or un-balanced super-patriotism." (The last quote is a composite of the summary opinions expressed.)

After the bill was defeated in the Assembly The Newsman went back and asked some of the same people again how they felt about it. Some still held to their support, but some also admitted to a new doubt — and one not generally a point of controversy in the deciding debate on it.

This was a feeling that the General Assembly should not be the agency deciding what courses should be taught in the

(See NOTEPAD, Page 2)

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