Activities of Legislature

cate that they are not really asleep presently provides. and that the next six weeks will instead be very active ones for them. While the road bond and gas tax come out.

School Legislation

The third bill of the session launching the State on a program of partione commissioner to be resident in week. The first, introduced by Rep. number as chairman, to cast the di-John Umstead and others, called for vision's vote on the state commission. Education Commission. The next, program goes through, HB 211 would lar vote. HB 228 restores the 10c top brought in by Rep. Harris, dropped put the state in the Portland cement limit on local library taxes, cut to the appropriation down to \$40,000,- business if the commission it autho- 5c in 1945. HB 227 and HB 229 add 000. And now Rep. Huskins' bill, HB rizes the Governor to appoint finds it to the powers of counties and muni-221, drops the appropriation another advisable for the Highway Commisten million dollars and, unlike the sion to make the product. others, provides that \$7,500,000 of the \$30,000,000 total shall be distributed

which were embodied in the following If passed, no new party could include

The middle of the fourth week of bills introduced last week: HB 222, the 1949 General Assembly saw the providing for the appropriation of ground-hog scurry back in his hole \$424,800 for each year of the coming dates of the party they seek to establish in the next election. To maintain momentarily, and saw the legislators and enforcement of a compulsory atscurry down to the Marine base at tendance program; HB 223, providing Camp Lejeune on a tour of inspec- for the appropriation of \$575,000 for tion after having had a fairly busy each year of the coming biennium time at the beginning of the week. for establishing and operating a pro-The ground-hog presumably went gram of instructional supervision; back to sleep for another six weeks. and HB 200, providing for the appro-Although it is thought in some quar- priation of \$1,400,000 for 1949-50 and ters that the quiescence of the ses- \$700,000 for 1950-51 for the purchase sion to date indicates that the legis- of school buses by the State Board of lators have been dozing since early Education, this to be in addition to January, the pace set during the lat- the program of replacement of school ter part of the week seems to indi- buses by the State which the law

The introduction of 108 new bills measures gathered dust in committee during the week brought the total for files awaiting public hearings on the session to 378, putting this legis- February 9, another portion of the lature only seven bills behind the Governor's road program, reorgani-1947 session. The comments below pation of the Highway Commission will reveal that important legislation to provide more diversified representation. was being considered by the committees as the week ended, and that this week. Appointment by the Govsome of it was already beginning to ernor of three associate commissioners in each of the 10 divisions is callwould be divided into three districts, cipation in the business of providing each district, and the district comschool buildings was introduced this missioners would elect one of their

Election Law Changes

As an expected aftermath of the in outright grants to the 25 counties recent struggle of the Progressive found to be most impoverished by and State Rights supporters to gain the State Board of Education accord- party status, in addition to longing to a fixed procedure for deter- standing complaints about registramining the ability of a county to tion and enforcement of the Corrupt Practices Act, bills embodying recom-The pleas of the school forces were mendations of the State Board of Not only does this bill propose repeal heard by the Joint Appropriations Elections were introduced in the Sen- of the vehicle inspection program but Committee on Thursday afternoon, ate on Thursday. SB 94 seeks to disnot only on the building program but sipate the haze surrounding the staalso on other school needs, some of tutory definition of a political party.

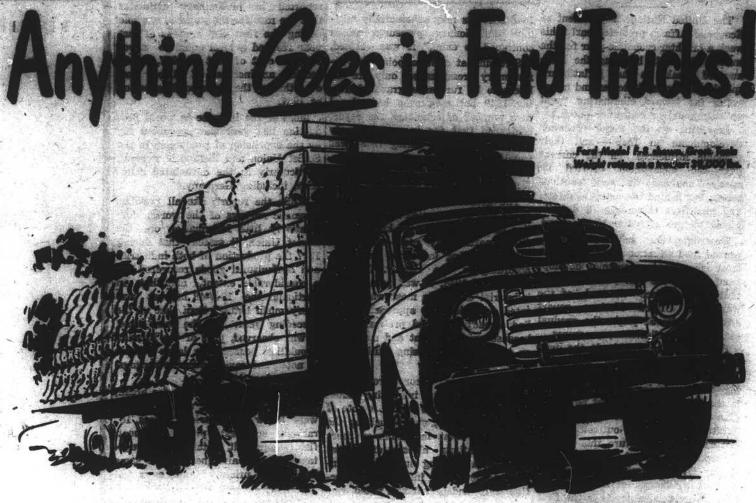
that they intend to support the car its status the new group would still have to poll at least 3% of the total vote for governor - or presidential electors. SB 93 would institute single registration book in each precinct by the time of the 1950 primary in place of the separate primary and general elections books now used. As a possible solution to the admitted hard job of getting convictions unde the Corrupt Practices Act, SB |92 would empower solicitors to seek indictments and trial for election violations in any county in their district adjoining the one in which the alegation occurs. The judge presiding at the conviction of a public official under the Corrupt Practices Act would be required to remove the offender from office. SB 95 would keep members of county boards of elections from openly campaigning for any candidate in primaries and general elections. Reflecting a possibility mentioned by the Governor in his inaugural address, HB 250 would ed for by HB 204. Each division allow county elections boards to decide whether they want to use voting machines in their counties.

Libraries On Wednesday several bills affecting libraries were introduced in the House. HB 225 would allow rural Whether or not the secondary road areas to establish libraries by popucipalities the authority to construct and maintain libraries and finance these operations by tax levies and bond issues. **Motor Vehicles**

> The Highway Safety Act, still reel ing from three weeks of frontal at-

tack, weathered the fourth round but was on the defensive all the way from the haymaker aimed by SB 100. suggests the first concrete substitute a system prohibiting motorists from obtaining their annual plates without first submitting a certificate from an "experienced automobile mechanic" that he has inspected the car within the preceding 6 months and that it is safe for highway operation. The alternatives now before the General Assembly make modification of the inspection program a sound prediction and repeal a distinct

Public hearings were held during the week on two matters of great importance to the municipalities of the State, important because they relate to revenue. The Joint Finance Committee heard representatives of the cities and towns request a share of and the House Roads Committee heard a very large delegation present The bill to ben all advertising of and the apparent sentiment was that



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