

Thru Capital Keyholes

By Bess Hinton Silver

EDUCATION—Many gentlemen from the length and breadth of North Carolina are taking temporary residence in Raleigh this week and will leave the Capital City two, three or four months later much wiser men. An unusually large number of new members make up this session of the General Assembly and many of these always come with ideas for remaking the laws to correct all difficulties of living in the State. Almost without exception these hopefuls leave for their homes at the end of the session wiser but sadder men. But despite failure of adoption of their proposals the Old Ship of State goes sailing on, and on, and on.

LIQUOR AND JAILS—Word is leaking into Raleigh that federal agents operating in the border-towns of Virginia are going to join forces with North Carolina Officers in breaking up some of the Tar Heel parties staged with "Virginia Liquor." According to well-grounded rumors the federal sleuths will keep eyes peeled on North Carolina cars parked around Virginia liquor stores. When the machines leave the federal boys will telephone their license numbers to arms of the law in this State. Watching the highways the Tar Heel officers expect to nab more than a few machines and their drivers and seize the contraband. Sounds reasonable, at any rate.

TURNING POINT—All eyes will be upon two men as this session of the Legislature progresses. Upon the success or failure of Governor Ehringhaus and Lieutenant Governor A. H. (Sandy) Graham with the solons depends a great deal of North Carolina political history. Friends of the Lieutenant Governor says he will run for the gubernatorial nomination in 1936 if he comes through the session with flying colors. From circles close to the present gubernatorial throne comes word that Mr. Ehringhaus may be persuaded to attempt to unhorse Senator Josiah Bailey next spring if he has good luck with the General Assembly.

NO SKIRMISH—Everything is all set for a major legislative battle over diversion of highway funds before the 1935 Legislature is very old. Capus M. Waynick, newly-appointed Chairman of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, has his forces lined up to protect the highway fund from various and sundry raiding parties but if the enemy combines forces in common cause there may be serious trouble. It will take money to repair roads now in bad shape because of the limit of spending set by the 1933 Legislature. It will take money to increase the Highway Patrol and enforce a driver's law. But other State interests wish to take motorists taxes to pay their bills.

DECISIONS—Political wise boys now gathered in Raleigh from all over the State are expecting Clyde R. Hoey, Shelby silver-tonguer, and Congressman R. L. Doughton to make announcements of their intentions as touching the gubernatorial race before the blue birds fly again. Both these political bigshots have told friends that they expected to reach conclusions "after the first of the year." That day has come and gone and a great silence hangs over Shelby and Sparta, North Carolina. "But it won't be long now," say friends and supporters of both potential gubernatorial candidates.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Forces that would like to dethrone Attorney-General Dennis G. Brummitt are busy hunting for a triple-threat to run against the Granville man if he seeks re-election. That is just what he is expected to do unless he decides to run for Governor or listen to those who would send him gunning for Senator Bailey. Some of the friends of Lieutenant Governor Graham would pit him against Mr. Brummitt and up from Craven county has come word that former State Senator Larry I. Moore may decide that he wants to be Attorney General. Meantime, Mr. Brummitt remains silent on his own plans although he fires occasional broadsides of the actions of others.

LONG RANGE—Not even the Generals in the field of opposition to the State's general sales tax (you've seen their names in print) privately expect the levy to be repealed at this session of the General Assembly. They'll tell you so, off the record. But they are busy laying the ground work of a campaign in 1937. Only angle of attack may an attempt at revision of the State's entire tax structure and writing into the laws a graduated corporation franchise tax that would work like an income tax in reverse and hit the "filthy rich" right in the center of their pocketbooks (vital spot.) But that doesn't mean that barrages will not be fired at the sales tax this session.

BOYS, GET THE MONEY—This General Assembly is going to have its financial headaches outside the

sales tax. Public sentiment is demanding more money for school teachers and those who dish out the higher education. Other State employees also have the public on their side and more money is going to be needed all around. How to get it is going to be a mighty big question in the present session and you needn't be surprised if somebody pops up with the old luxury tax (pet of former John W. Hindsdale, of Wake county) as a supplement to the general sales tax. Also ways and means will be sought for making big corporations cough up some more tax dough.

BIG MONEY—A movement to have the State take over county indebtedness for schools and roads is almost certain to be launched in the General Assembly. With all the other problems of finance confronting the lawmakers this demand is not likely to become reality at this session but sentiment has been moving in that direction for some time since the State took over operation of schools and roads. The most reliable estimate is that taking over local school and road bonds would add \$165,000,000 to the debt of the State government but it might reduce local property taxes to some extent.

HOME LOANS—Representative Frank Hancock, of the Fifth North Carolina District, is going to bat in Congress for more money to be loaned Tar Heel Home-owners in distress through the Home Owners Loan Corporation. Mr. Hancock and Senator Robert R. Reynolds got all hot and bothered about the way the

HOLC was being administered and secured a change of manages. Now the money has about run out and little benefit will come to Tar Heels unless more iron men of the realm can be enlisted in the aid of delinquent mortgages.

DID A JOB—One man who did a big job in North Carolina during the past two years and who is still hard at work but gets little credit for it is Dean I. O. Schaub, of State College, and who heads the Extension Service in this State. Dean Schaub handled the machinery for the AAA tobacco program, the cotton program, the corn-hog program and the other federal agricultural plans that have meant millions and millions of dollars to this State. Dean Schaub isn't thinking of running for public office but if he did, undoubtedly he would get a big farm vote from the boys who have dollars where last year they possessed only pennies.

FIGHT NAUGHTY BOOKS—Washington, Jan. 4.—Fight films, naughty books and the same kind of motion pictures drew legislation in today's offering of bills. Senator Copeland, Democrat, New York, introduced a measure to put new teeth in the law prohibiting their movement in interstate commerce.

ARE TO TAKE FARM CENSUS IN COUNTY

Work Will Probably Get Under Way Within A Week

A farm census planned to give valuable information concerning the farm population of the United States, is to get under way in Surry county probably within the next week, although the work had been planned to begin January 2. However, Surry county authorities were unable to get fully organized in time to start on that date.

The enumerators, a group of 15 appointed directly from the office of Congressman Frank Hancock, had to pass examinations and prove their qualifications from the standpoint of age, transportation facilities and other requirements. The examination tested each applicant's knowledge of farming.

The farmers have been invited to apply for copies of the blanks, which will contain over 100 questions, in order that they may study the blanks and be prepared to answer all questions without delay. Any

farmer who refuses to answer the question is subject to a fine of \$500 or a year in jail, or both.

The questions cover every phase of farm life, and it is thought that the census will be the most important ever made before because of

the crop production and control acts and the drought conditions in the west.

More than a fourth of the wheat produced in this country is grown in Kansas.

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