

Thru Capital Keyholes

By Bess Hinton Silver

GOT THE JUMP — Lieutenant Governor A. H. Graham got the jump on Clyde R. Hoey, the Shelby Democratic giant, in announcing his candidacy for Governor. Both hopefuls had announced that they would tell the dear public of their intentions after the General Assembly adjourned but "Sandy Graham made it almost 'immediately if not sooner', in announcing while the Legislature was marking time in order that bills might be ratified. If Mr. Hoey hasn't spoken when you read this you may expect to hear from him ere long, and a good political time will be had by one and all.

NEW THREAT—A lot of people around Raleigh and elsewhere are hoping that they can persuade Senator Carl L. Bailey of Washington County to run for Lieutenant Governor. Already numerous candidates have been mentioned with Senator Paul D. Grady, of Johnston, and former Senator George McNeill as the go-getters of the campaign so far. Senator W. G. Clarke may take the boys on but it is rumored along the old Grapevine that he might withdraw if a triple-threat to Grady can be found. Some of the wise boys think Bailey is the man. The Senator from Washington has a good legislative record to lean upon if he should decide to run.

UNPOPULAR — Senator U. L. Spence of Moore, went home from the Legislature much less popular than when he came to Raleigh for the simple reason that he opposed diversion of the money you pay in gas taxes for your road. Senator Spence said upon all occasions that he believed that such money should be spent on roads and not for other purposes. But the Moore County lawmaker was overruled by the General Assembly which decided to take \$1,800,000 each year of the next biennium out of the motorists pocket to pay general expenses of the State. Governor Ehringhaus was of the same opinion as Senator Spence but not enough of the boys were willing to listen. Watch your step two years from now.

BIG FIGHT—The school book publishers of the schools of the State didn't like the idea of this book rental system but Governor Ehringhaus and his friends were determined that such a measure should be enacted into law in order that

each child in the State might have not only an eight months school but books with which to carry on the studies. The proposal brought on major legislative battles but finally became law and now you can get school books for your youngsters at much less cost.

COSTS MONEY—Samuel Blythe one of the big-shot writers of this country writes that owners of small amounts of utilities stock have already suffered losses of three and one-half billion dollars by reason of declines in the value of such securities. Now that the Rayburn bill to turn almost complete control of utilities over to the federal power commission is before Congress your home-town utilities stock is not gaining any health. There has been much opposition to the Rayburn bill but some folk believe it still has a chance of becoming law, unless the opposition gains strength.

BEE IS BUZZING—The gubernatorial bug is reported to have bitten Senator John T. Burrus, High Point doctor, but many of the political wise-acres do not believe he will run next spring. With Congressman R. L. Doughton definitely out of the race it is possible that Dr. Burrus could attract a considerable following from the ranks of followers of R. T. Fountain, former lieutenant governor who was defeated for Governor by John C. B. Ehringhaus in 1932.

NOT QUITTING—Mr. Fountain is still working around Raleigh and spent most of last week around the legislature where he is hoping to line up support for his Senatorial candidacy in opposition to Senator J. W. Bailey. "Some of my opponent's friends are spreading it abroad that I will not be a candidate but I want to say that I am already in the race to stay. The man who runs against me will have to go down every rabbit path in this State," Fountain said just the other day.

IS BUSY—Colonel Thomas LeRoy Kirkpatrick, former State Senator from Charlotte, is stirring up his gubernatorial campaign these days. Like Fountain, the dauntless Colonel spent a good part of last week rubbing elbows with legislators in behalf of his candidacy. The Colonel was the first announced candidate for governor this time, having disclosed his intention to run while a member of the 1933 General Assembly.

YOUR HONOR—Friends of Robert Grady Johnson, Speaker of the House of Representatives, are discounting talk of his becoming a Candidate for Lieutenant Governor. Mr. Johnson, they say, had rather have a place on the Superior Court bench. The Legislature passed a bill reducing the retirement ages for judges from 70 to 65 years of age and that will mean that younger men, such as Mr. Johnson, will have more opportunities of being addressed as "Your Honor."

HAPPY BOY—Thad Eure, principal clerk of the House of Representatives during the past several sessions, is like a kid with a new toy—so happy he is at the response to the recent suggestion that he might be a candidate for Secretary of State. Stacey W. Wade, who holds down the secretarial job at present, says he isn't worried, although it's a pretty safe bet that he would like to see the popular Mr. Eure decide to take some other job. Both men are well liked, know their politics from A to Z and would provide the natives with a lively race should they run against one another.

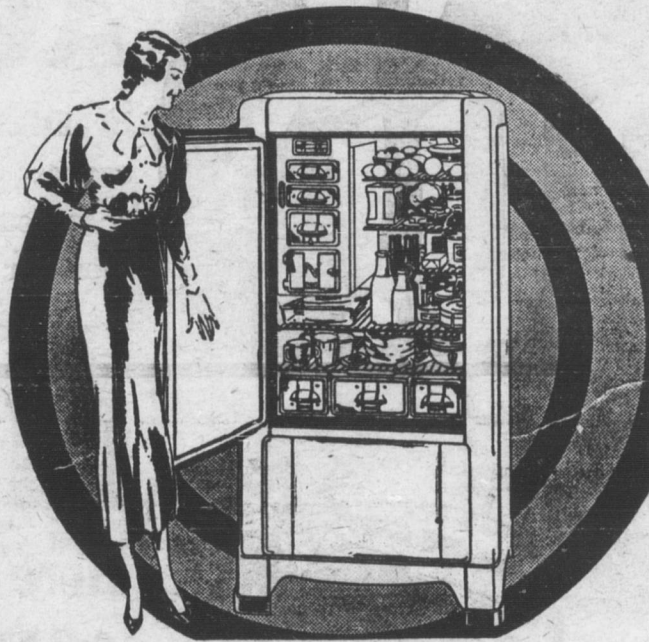
GOT NASTY—The wets in the House got awfully angry with the Senate for killing the Day liquor bill and proceeded to pass some legislation just to spite the Senators. One Raleigh political observer wrote that he had long deplored the "intolerance of dries" but recently he had become acquainted with the intolerance of the wets which he described as "just as bad." Many people who believe the present prohibition system is extremely bad and would like to see the control laws liberalized in order to get liquor out in the open, do not believe the House wets helped the cause any by displaying their temper.

PRISON HEADS CONFUSED

Raleigh, May 12.—Adoption of lethal gas as the means of inflicting death judgments upon capital felons, set for July, leaves some confusion in Raleigh as to whether the 23 men now on death row will die by both methods.

Of course, if a prisoner is electrocuted he will not be gassed. Some of them have appeals in the supreme court. If a prisoner set to die in July should win his appeal, get a new trial, and lose again, he would be in this fix: He will have been sentenced to die two ways.

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