

Thru Capital Keyholes

By Bess Hinton Silver

AMUSING—Along about this time of the year preceding State-wide primaries, candidates for the big posts begin to visit Washington to ascertain how they stand with the boys from the home-State who have proved their vote-getting ability. So far, not a single one has returned discouraged. The lads who get to Congress must be good at politics and must be better to stay there. They know better than to give office-seekers the impression that his Congressman is not his friend. It's the old army game of science and skill but it still works.

SCRAPPING—North Carolina power industries are going after the Rayburn bill, now in the United States Senate, out in the open. Some of the companies are running advertisements in the State newspapers giving the public their side of the case. Privately some power officials express the opinion that there is so much of the undesirable in the measure to put unprecedented control of local business in the hands of the Federal Power Commission that the public can be trusted to decide against the Rayburn bill. Be that as it may, Tar Heel members of Congress have reported that their mail has been filled with protests against the power control bill.

IN THE MAKING—It now appears that Wrightsville Beach, near Wilmington, may be given a new lease on life by the building of a bridge to the island and constructing a road on the sound side beyond the center of public attraction. New Hanover county commissioners have asked the State Highway and Public Works Commission to spend the money allocated for general road purposes in their county on the Wrightsville Beach project. Since resort business means so much to this county by the sea, it is not improbable that the commission may grant the request. In that event you will be able to drive your car right up to dear old Wrightsville, something no living being has ever done before.

NEUTRAL?—As things are now shaping up it appears the Ehringhaus administration will be neutral in the coming gubernatorial primary. In 1932 charges were hurled that the Gardner forces favored Ehringhaus over his opponent R. T. Fountain. This time Lieutenant Governor A. H. Graham and Clyde R. Hoey of Shelby, brother-in-law of former Governor Gardner, are considered the chief contenders for the red

leather chair and the Mansion on Blount Street in Raleigh, but so far there has been no indication that the present Governor desires to play favorites. In fact, different key men in the Ehringhaus organization are favoring first one and then the other of the two big-shot candidates.

NO SHOCK-ABSORBER—Natives living along former county dirt roads have gone along uncomplainingly paying their gasoline tax of six cents on the gallon. They were content under the promise that as soon as the primary State road system was completed the roads along which "real rolks" live would be put in passable all-weather shape. But what are they going to say when they wake up and realize that the state system is finished and the money that was supposed to be spent in improving by-ways has been diverted to various and sundry purposes? Some of the politicians now advocating using your gasoline tax money far away from your roads may be embarrassed in answering that very question, not so long in the future.

DETERMINED—Thad Eure, principal clerk of several sessions of the House of Representatives, now says there is no doubt that he will oppose Stacey W. Wade for Secretary of State in the Democratic primary next spring. Mr. Eure adds that he is confident of success but Secretary Wade believes he will have something to do with the matter. Eure is back touring the State as escheats officer of the University of North Carolina and reports that he finds his campaign progressing even better than he anticipated.

NIBBLING—M. R. Dunagan, Raleigh newspaper correspondent, is reported to be nibbling at the idea of entering the lists with Eure and Wade for the post of Secretary of State. Dunagan is one of the veteran capitol newsmen and as a State correspondent has become known over the State. He has "covered" several sessions of the General Assembly and can call by first names most of the boys who do things in North Carolina politics. With all that in his favor, however, the ear-to-the-ground boys shake their heads and opine they believe Mr. Dunagan will change his mind about entering politics and stick to his scribbling.

GRAB BAG—Several State department heads are being deluged with applications for jobs created by acts of the last General Assem-

bly. Over in the revenue department places on the augmented State Highway Patrol are being mightily sought after as are positions in the new department of Highway Safety. With the great number of applicants administrative heads have a wide choice of personnel but they are almost certain to disappoint or offend many politicians.

WINE AND SONG—Attorney General A. A. F. Seawell has ruled that under the domestic wine bill passed by the late Legislature wine of natural alcoholic content may be manufactured and sold in this State but that no wines may be imported containing more alcohol than legal under the former law. That bothers many wine manufacturers located in other States but buying their grapes in North Carolina. However, the boys and girls who drink naturally fermented wine of about 14 per cent alcohol will not know much difference about four or five glasses—domestic or imported, it is all calculated to produce song.

BIG JOBS—LITTLE PAY—Don't make the mistake of continuing with the idea that a superintendent of a prison camp is a pot-bellied fellow who would like to have the privilege of flogging all his prisoners every day just for the fun of the thing. P. D. McLean, newly-appointed assistant to the State parole commissioner, Edwin M. Gill, reports that he finds camp heads surprisingly intelligent men, with real interest in prisoners and lots of work to do. Superintendents must know how to farm, must be able to can surpluses, know something of keeping accounts, know how to handle bad men and able to work a corps of guards. For these services, which continue almost 24 hours daily, they receive the princely sum of from \$65 to \$100 per month.

DOESN'T MIND IT—Governor Ehringhaus isn't worrying so much about all the talk over applying the three per cent general sales tax to meals served in eating establishments. He remembers that his predecessor was "cussed" for running the State "in the red" and believes the public will come to appreciate that a balanced budget is more to be desired than the applause accompanying demagogic political speeches. He thinks good schools, good hospitals for the insane and deformed, and decent pay for school teachers will overcome the present opposition to expansion of the sales tax.

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