

Features

Editorials

THOMAS J. THOMAS
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Tar Heel...

PEOPLE and ISSUES

...By Cliff Blue

RESCUE SQUADS - Volunteer Rescue Squads in a number of Tar Heel communities have been organized. They operate somewhat like volunteer fire departments and in many instances serve as an auxiliary to the fire departments.

IKE LONDON - Ike London, the veteran Rockingham scribe has been on a trip to Florida and Nassau, leaving the Rockingham Post - Dispatch to others to edit whole away, with the giving an interesting report on his trip by letter.

NEW PAPER - A new newspaper for Rockingham appears to be in the making. Reports are that John W. Covington, Jr., Rockingham banker and businessman is planning to start a new paper around April 1.

A few months ago in Sanford, Dee Harris ventured forth into the publishing game by starting the Sanford News Leader. With Dee having been in the game for some six months, he and John could probably have an interesting chat over a cup of coffee!

CHARLIE HAMILTON - Almost a year ago, Charlie Hamilton, staff writer with the Greensboro Record took over the operation of the Harnett County News in Lillington. We have followed the News with interest since Charlie took over its operation and commend him for the job which he is doing.

COMMITTEES - In the State Senate, there are 34 committees; in the House, 50.

The number of committees could be reduced without hurting, but at the same time, there is practically no additional cost to the additional committees and they permit the legislation to be handled by a greater variety of chairmen and committees.

OFF TO GOOD START - The General Assembly, in our opinion, has gotten off to a good start. While the session could run until around the middle of June, the dispatch with which the money committees have gotten down to work could mean adjournment the latter part of May which no doubt the members and public

would both welcome, come springtime and hot weather.

HONORARY CITIZENS - We note that the Tennessee House of Representatives has passed a resolution which would make Sir Winston Churchill an honorary citizen of that state. Well, we would bet that Kentucky would go that one better and make him an "honorary colonel."

OUR BOB - The passing of Robert Rice Reynolds last week removes from life a man who for 12 years was one of North Carolina's most colorful citizens.

Most of us think of Bob Reynolds in terms of his Senate campaigns and his service in the U. S. Senate. He was first elected to the U. S. Senate in the depression day of 1932 and served for two terms or 12 years. Before his successful campaign for the Senate in '32 "Our Bob" had made two unsuccessful state-wide campaigns. In 1924 he was unsuccessful in running for lieutenant governor, and in 1926 he opposed and lost in his bid to unseat the veteran Lee S. Overman from the U. S. Senate.

In 1932, in the height of the depression, he mimicked and ridiculed the rich and pompous Cameron Morrison, then serving out the unexpired term of the late Senator Overman, and after a close contest in the first primary, won in a landslide in the second primary.

In his early Washington days in the Senate, "Our Bob" was a loyal follower of FDR, supporting him in his Supreme Court packing bill. But in 1939, following his defeat of Frank Hancock, who opposed him for renomination in 1938, Bob turned against Roosevelt and the New Deal. The break began when Roosevelt named Hancock over Bob's objection, to a high post in the Department of Agriculture.

Bob became an isolationist and a Nationalist. Our thought all along was that Bob envisioned himself as the head of a movement which might

catch fire and carry him to the White House. Instead, it back-fired and brought him back to the mountains of his native Buncombe County.

In 1950 he ran a poor third between Frank Graham and Willis Smith in an attempt to regain his old Senate seat. From then on, having become wealthy the same way Cam Morrison did --- by marriage, he lived quietly and out of the spotlight at his home near Asheville.

AS

The Pastor

SEES IT

By Rev. Thomas C. Christmas
Andrews First Baptist Church

There is scarcely a family from which someone has not been borne to the grave. Many of us are hard-hit by the deaths of friends --- close friends --- in recent months.

It is easy for us to eulogize the dead to excess. With reference to a great many who disappear from the stage of life, it is best to say nothing. The Bible is remarkable for its silence concerning the dead. Adam and Eve died, but there was no eulogy. Prophets, priests, and kings died, but nothing was said. There is no reference to a funeral sermon anywhere. There is no Bible precedent for funeral sermons.

But the deceased --- we live, in a large measure, by their labors. They prepared the way for us. They built our houses, felled our forests, and opened up life's way for us. Many people speak most powerfully from the grave. Luther is gone, but the Reformation lives on. John Bunyan is dead, but his Pilgrim still walks through the world. Robert Raikes is dead, but the Sunday School still goes on. So, being dead, they still speak.

When they went away from us they left behind an example which we are bound to respect. Many are refrained from an unworthy act by the influence of one beyond the grave.

Sorrow for the pious dead, when not excessive, must be refining. Our tenderest sympathies are never fully awakened until we suffer. We can never feel for others until we have learned to feel for ourselves. However, our grief must not be so great that it shuts out heaven from our weeping eyes. We are not to sorrow as those who have no hope. Even Seneca, whom we refer to as a heathen, used to say, "The thought of deceased friends is sweet and pleasant to me; for I have enjoyed them as one who is about to lose them, and I have lost them as one who may have them again."

Certainly the promises of Jesus and His victory over the grave should make the Christian live with glorious hope which transcends the bondage of death. Because Jesus lives, we live and shall never experience the second death. Hallelujah! Christ arose!

WASHINGTON - The Senate has been engaged in filling committee assignments on fifteen of its eighteen standing, select, and special committees. Senate organization has been pending during the Rules debate which ended on February 7. By a roll-call vote the Senate rejected any change in Rule XXII which requires a two-thirds vote of the Senators "present and voting" to impose silence on those who wish to speak on a pending motion or bill. Very likely the Rules debate will not be renewed until the opening of the 89th Congress in January, 1965.

When the Senate convened for this session, deaths, retirements, and political defeats had caused thirty-two Senate Committee vacancies to exist. In the reshuffling of last week, four new Committee Chairmen were named. Senator Anderson succeeds the late Senator Kerr as Chairman of the Space Committee. In turn, Senator Jackson succeeds Senator Anderson as Chairman of the Interior Committee. Senator McNamara succeeds the late Senator Chavez as Chairman of the Public Works Committee. My colleague, Senator Jordan, succeeds Senator Mansfield who vacates the Rules Committee, as its Chairman.

Seven committees had the party alignments changed. These were Foreign Relations, Armed Services, Commerce, Public Works, Appropriations, Banking and Currency, and Judiciary. The Finance Committee made no change in party alignment, but Senators Ribicoff and Dirksen were named to fill existing vacancies. The Government Operations Committee was enlarged to the status of a major committee by increasing its membership from

Due to the dominance of tax position of the Senate Finance and Appropriations committees is certain to have a marked effect on any legislation in these areas. With the failure to enlarge the Finance Committee at last week's policy meetings, it appears likely that the Finance Committee will shape any tax bill brought to the floor.

PROGRAMS - Recent Presidential messages have dealt with farm, education, and mental health programs. The farm message of January 31, proceeds on the theory that Congress will offer separate bills to meet needs in the areas of feed grains, cotton, dairying, and other programs. Last year's omnibus farm bill offered by the Administration was much battered in its attempt to cope with opposing views on farm surpluses. The separate bill theory may bring greater legislative success in farm programs at this session.

In contrast to the agricultural approach, Congress has been asked to enact a comprehensive twenty-four part educational bill. The measure has already gotten off to a rocky start. Disappointment has been voiced from many sides over segments of the package program. The bill involves about everything that has thus far been conceived for legislative action in the educational field. I do not think there is much likelihood that an all-or-nothing approach will produce aid to education at this session of Congress.

The mental health program embraces four legislative programs and some amendments to existing health laws. In essence it would provide additional grants to States for mental health centers, and for some buildings which would be used for the treatment, training, and care of the mentally retarded. At the present time I have not had an opportunity to study its provisions closely and form an opinion as to the workability of such an approach to the care for the mentally ill and the mentally retarded.

JUST ONE THING AFTER ANOTHER
By Carl Goerch

We happened to come across a letter the other day that was written by Ambassador Joseph Daniels several years before his death, while he was in Mexico. It closed with this little ditty:

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SENATOR SAM ERVIN

SAYS

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AUNT HET

From The Desk Of W. Frank Forsyth



Dumb animals are more fortunate than us human beings. They can satisfy their appetite without takin' soda, or a pill, to stop the misery.

Weekly LEGISLATIVE Summary

(Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of weekly summaries prepared by the legislative staff of the Institute of Government on the Work of the North Carolina General Assembly of 1963. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.)

The 1963 General Assembly convened on Wednesday, Feb. 6. Because the death of Lieutenant Governor Philpott made it necessary that the Secretary of State convene the Senate as well as the House, the two houses convened at different times---the Senate at 11:30 a.m., the House at the usual 12 noon hour.

Senator Clarence Stone of Rockingham was elected President of the Senate, Senator Ralph Scott of Alamance was named President pro tempore. S. Ray Byler was re-elected Reading Clerk; and W. Brooks Poole was re-elected Sergeant At Arms.

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

As the session opened, interest of legislators and public alike was centered on the new Legislative Building. The first week of the session amounted to a "shake-down" cruise as members and employees became familiar with the building and its facilities. Members turned their attention to the question of management of the building. Senator Tom White of Lenoir introduced SB 3, creating a Legislative Building Governing Commission. After some differences between Senate and House were adjusted, the bill was ratified, becoming the first new law of the 1963 session. The Legislative Building Governing Commission will consist of the President of the Senate, two persons appointed by him who are members of the House at the time of their appointments. Appointive members will serve for 4-year staggered terms. The Commission will determine policy governing the use of the Legislative Building, will make allocations of space within the building, and will promulgate rules governing the use of the building and its facilities. The actual work of maintenance may be delegated to the Department of Administration, subject to the general direction of the Commission.

President Stone named Senators White and Williams and Speaker Blue named Representatives Crawford and Uzzell to the Commission.

BUDGET - Governor Sanford delivered his budget message on Friday, Feb. 8, and the budget bills were introduced the same day. The budget totaled some \$1.8 billion. An increase of \$35 million was required from the General Fund for the "A" Budget---to maintain state services at their present levels. New funds amounting to \$51 million were included for the public schools for more teachers and sick leave, salary increases, and other purposes. About \$9 million additional funds went to the Consolidated University of North Carolina. Two million was set aside for conversion of community colleges to 4-year institutions. The probation and parole programs received sizable increases, as did the mental institutions. Salary increased to \$18,000 per year were recommended for members of the Council of State. Agriculture fund expenditures were increased by about \$3 million. Gasoline and oil inspection fees which have been used to support General Fund agencies will be used for highway purposes, thus increasing substantially the amount of money available for secondary road purposes.

Capital improvements, lagging since the defeat of the proposed bond issue in 1961 will require \$117 million. The General Fund is in sufficiently good shape that \$47 million from that source can be applied to capital improvements.

Senator Tom White of Lenoir and Rep. David Brix of Robeson are chairmen of the

Senate and House Appropriations Committees respectively. The chairmen wasted no time in getting down to work. Less than a week after the opening gavel rapped, the joint Appropriations Committees were hearing Budget Officer and Director of Administration Hugh Cannon outline and explain the budget.

FINANCE - The other half of the budget picture --- where to get the necessary money --- will fall to Senator J. V. Johnson of Iredell and Rep. Clyde Harris of Rowan. It appears that they may have the unusual and delightful task of promoting legislation reducing taxes. Governor Sanford, in special message, read to each house, recommended an increase in the dependency exemptions for state income tax purposes, the repeal of the sales tax on news vendors, and the exemption of prepared medicines from the sales tax. By the end of the first full week, five bills reducing taxes were introduced: SB 16 (HB 22) To increase income tax exemptions to \$500 for each dependent; HB 29 and HB 69 repealing the sales tax on news vendors; HB 41 reducing taxes on commercial fishing boats; HB 47, exempting medicines sold on prescription of veterinarians from the sales tax; and HB 56 exempting certain resort cottages and apartments from the 3% tax on gross rentals.

SENATE REDISTRICTING - This painful subject moved to the fore immediately after the Assembly convened. SB 6, by Senator Currie of Durham, is identical to the bill which he introduced last session. The 1961 bill cleared a Senate Committee but was defeated on the floor. Also introduced the first day was SB 7, by Sen. Humber, to increase the Senate membership to 60, and to provide that Senate districts contain related geographical, population and area interests. SB 30, by Sen. Crew would divide the state into not more than 50 senatorial districts by considering population distribution, traditional, historical and geographical groupings of counties, mutually shared area economic and governmental interests and problems, and other factors reasonably bearing upon fair representation. The bill would provide for 55 Senators, the extra five to be apportioned to the five most populous districts. Finally SB 22 presented Republican suggestions for redistricting. This bill would give Mecklenburg, and a district comprised of Guilford and Stokes, 3 Senators each.

The problem is the same as in 1961, but the background is sharply different. Lending a sense of real urgency to the task are the more than 40 court cases spawned by the Tennessee case of Baker vs. Carr, and the fact that the Republican party will undoubtedly make a real effort in 1964 to capitalize on failure to deal effectively with the problem.

SCHOOLS - Not all of the school activity was on the appropriations front. HB 51, by Rep. Whitley is designed to strengthen school attendance laws and to require the state to finance and train the school attendance personnel. HB 63 by Rep. Thornburg, establishes a limited form of continuing contract for public school teachers and principals. SB 36, by Sen. Strong and Story, establishes a tenure system for teachers. SB 35 (HB 68) provides for nonpartisan elections of members of all city and county boards of education.

MISCELLANEOUS - SB 8 (HB 2) establishes a program of medical assistance to needy aged persons who are not eligible for public assistance payments under the OAA program. HB 3 (SB 10) amends the absentee voting laws, and HB 32 would repeal absentee voting laws except for members of the armed forces. HB 8 raises the minimum wage to \$1.10. HB 9 requires that new cars sold after Jan. 1, 1964, be equipped with seat belts. SB 12 (HB 24) eliminates the right of public utilities to put suspended rates into effect upon the filing of bond. HB 27 requires that sales and use taxes paid by county and city boards of education be refunded. HB 35 abolishes capital punishment.

From The Desk Of W. Frank Forsyth

With the second week of the 1963 Legislature behind us things are beginning to settle down in a routine manner at the Legislature.

In the first week, Governor Sanford gave his State of the State message to the Legislature and the following day gave his budget message presenting a whopping billion dollar budget and did not recommend any new tax program.

The billion dollar budget did not include approximately five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in federal matching funds which will be disbursed through State Agencies.

Most of the Committee assignments have already been given out, however, in the Senate there are several more committees to be named and I will wait until next week to give you the list of my committee.

I introduced a bill in the Senate to prohibit Utility Companies from placing rates into effect under bond. This bill grew out of the fight over a rate increase by Nantahala Power and Light Company, which averages 33 1/3 % but which in some cases goes to nearly 100%. Related to the issue is the disputed sale of Nantahala's distribution facilities to Duke Power Company.

Under the existing statute, the Utility Company may go ahead and raise rates without approval of the State Utility Commission provided it posts sufficient bonds to refund rates to its customers should the commission turn down its request.

This is precisely what has happened in the controversial Nantahala - Duke deal in Western North Carolina. Approximately \$1,500,000.00 has been collected as a result of rate increases and the end is not in sight pending a Utilities Commission decision.

It is my strong conviction that a Utility Company should not have such rate raising authority. The public is the loser for at the present time I do not believe the public is being represented by the present Utilities Commission. No one can dispute the fact that large Utilities should anticipate their projected needs and tie in rates with planning so as to take their rate requests to the Utilities Commission first, that is not an unreasonable thing to ask them to do. The Utilities Commission members are appointed, they must be made to realize that their obligation is to the public no less than Utilities Companies.

Also involved in this bill is the rate increase placed into effect under bond by Western Carolina Telephone Company.

Their problem will be no more of power Legislation introduced in the coming weeks of the Legislature.

The 1963 General Assembly of North Carolina christened its dazzling new State Legislature building (State House) and this seven million dollar structure is really a sight to see - beautiful and functional. Many folks have termed this building "The show place of the nation." The State House may be a symbol of something new, but the new in North Carolina generally merges with the old. Our North Carolina's attitude is fixed and forward and its slogan is: "Good government is a habit in North Carolina."

Should you wish to reach me by telephone, my number is 8337036. To reach me by phone at the State House, place your call through Capitol Exchange and ask for my office #1016. You can reach me through my office at the State House, Raleigh, by letter or telegram. If there is anything that I can do for any of you folks, please command me.

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AT YOUR FORD DEALER'S FRIDAY!
The Liveliest of the Lively Ones!

Meet Ford's all-new Command Performance cars fresh from their world premiere in Monaco! At center is the hot new Falcon Sprint V-8 that won first in its class at the famed Monte Carlo Rallye. Bucket seats, sports-type steering wheel, 164-hp V-8 and tachometer are standard. More news! V-8 engines now available with any Falcon! Top: the new Fairlane 500 Sports Coupe that took Alpine grades like a native. There's a choice of two V-8's and a vinyl covering in black or white for its Thunderbird roof. Foreground: new Super Torque Ford Sports Hardtop with V-8 zoom up to 425 hp and sleek new roofline. This beautiful new hardtop looks like a convertible!

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