

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Last week the legislators spent a day at the marine base at Camp Lejeune; next Wednesday they will visit Cherry Point. To get home by April 14, and both presiding officers have said that this is possible, they will have to hustle in the 29 legislative days remaining. Already the calendars show a backlog of postponed bills, the rate of introduction is on an increase. For the first time this session the houses failed several times this week to agree and sent bills to conference. Hotel expenses are mounting, and pay stops on April 2. Frayed nerves and deflated pocketbooks signal the beginning of a concentrated effort to finish the job; night and afternoon sessions are not far off.

Reapportionment of Legislative Representation

Tentative 1950 census figures setting North Carolina's population at 4,062,027 are the basis for bills introduced on Tuesday for the purpose of reapportioning representation in the General Assembly. SB 308 calls for increasing the number of senatorial districts from 33 to 38, giving 12 districts 2 senators each. Forsyth, Guilford, and Mecklenburg would remain districts by themselves, but each would get 2 senators rather than 1. HB 526 designed to reapportion the 120 House seats would make less drastic changes; representation would remain as it now is except that the second representatives now allotted both Cabarrus and Pitt would be transferred to Alamance and Rockingham. Rep. Blackwell's HB 574, introduced Friday, proposes amending the Constitution to increase the number of senators to 60 and the number of representatives to 130, retaining the present system of apportionment. While it is too early to comment on the Blackwell proposal, the other bills in their present form, like those designed to realign the Congressional districts, seem to stand little chance of passage.

City Streets

Aid to city streets in the form of the Powell bill (SB 120) seems to be in the home stretch. After receiving approval from the House appropriations committee on Tuesday by a narrow 24-22 vote, it went to the House floor on Friday, and its proponents fought off several amendments before securing passage on second reading by a substantial margin. Third reading is scheduled for Monday night and passage at that time with subsequent concurrence by the Senate in two clarifying amendments seems assured.

Alcoholic Beverages

The last substantial hope for a state-wide liquor referendum before 1952 perished in the House last Tuesday when 51 representatives recorded themselves as opposed to a motion to override an unfavorable committee report and place HB 186 calling for an all-or-nothing election on the House calendar. Although referendum advocates gained a few votes over the 1949 count, the most that could be claimed was a moral victory in forcing the representatives to take a stand on the issue. With that issue settled for the time being, two other referendum bills were methodically killed by a Senate committee and a bill authorizing an ABC store referendum in Winston-Salem passed the House on Thursday by a 68-37 vote. Meanwhile a bill was introduced in the Senate calling for a similar vote in the city of Greensboro. Both city bills are scheduled for a public hearing next Tuesday afternoon before the Senate propositions and grievances committee. After delaying for almost 8 months, the similar House committee gave an unfavorable report to Rep. Atkins' bill designed to reduce from 1 gallon to 1 quart the amount of liquor which may be transferred into a dry county or into N. C. from out of state. Identical bills designed to shift the responsibility for liquor law enforcement from the county to the state level were introduced in both houses on Friday. They repeal the provision requiring county ABC boards to spend from 5 to 10 per cent of their profits to hire local enforcement officers, authorize the State ABC Board to establish an alcoholic control department with a chief and at least 100 officers with statewide powers, and require the county ABC boards to pay 10 per cent of their profits into a state enforcement fund.

Highways

The thorny problem of truck transportation on the public highways played a large part in the General Assembly's work this week. The Tuesday hearing before the Senate roads committee on the Allsbrook bill (SB 153) to reduce maximum truck weights set in 1949 saw considerable debate before the measure was finally turned over to a subcommittee. Earlier, the Senate received SB 297 tightening the tax provision on trucks found loaded beyond their licensed weights. The House roads committee took only 2 days to report favorably on HB 540 reducing from 45 to 40 MPH the maximum speed for trucks on the open highway, and received 2 bills apparently containing recommendations of highway and planning study reports. HB 571 would authorize the Highway Commission to landscape highways and build and maintain roadside parks, while HB 568 would permit municipalities and the Commission, acting separately or together, to plan and build through

or "limited access" highways in congested areas.

State Taxation

Finance committee action this week indicates that this General Assembly continues to think that new revenues are unnecessary. Following a public hearing on Thursday, the committee disapproved the amendment to the Revenue Act designed to raise \$3 million by lifting the maximum sales tax on a single article from \$15 to \$30 and tabled a proposal which would require "fleet owners" to pay a 3% sales tax on vehicle lubricants and accessories. On the same day Rep. Umstead, who still thinks that additional revenues will be required, withdrew an amendment calculated to bring in about \$1 1/2 million annually by increasing the sales tax on wholesale transactions from 1/20 to 1/15 of 1% and another which would levy a 3% gross receipts tax on movie admissions, and in their place submitted one to raise between \$5 and \$6 million by imposing a 1/2 cent crown tax on soft drinks of 12 ounces or less and 1 cent on larger containers. A measure which would have decreased state revenues by some \$400,000 by allowing persons with incomes of less than \$5,000 per year to report on "short form" income tax returns also met committee disapproval.

Matters of Interest to Local Officials

County officials did not dispute the value of the farm census to North Carolina farmers at Tuesday's committee hearing on bills relieving the counties of census-taking responsibility, but they emphasized that tax lists cannot do a good job of listing property and count farms at the same time. The county agricultural agencies praised the census but pleaded inability to do the job themselves. The bills have been referred to a joint subcommittee. Meanwhile the House received HB 561 putting principal responsibility for investigating violent and unexplained deaths on physicians appointed by a state medical examiner and approved by a state commission.

Breeding Program Making Progress

At the conclusion of a meeting held recently in Elizabeth City on the subject of artificial breeding of dairy cattle, a steering committee was appointed. This committee was composed of three men from each of the four counties represented, Chowan, Perquimans, Pasquotank and Currituck. The duty of this committee was to make a survey of the counties to determine the approximate number of farmers interested in such an association and the number of cows available. Perquimans County farmers are responding favorably to the idea of such an association. Some have expressed themselves as being glad for an opportunity to have access to breeding of bulls of such quality as offered by this plan. Quite often the question is asked, "How soon can we start?"

Perquimans County, having no dairies, will in most cases have as members, farmers having from one to five cows. About 60% of the county has been canvassed, to date, with some over 200 cows pledged. Work toward forming an association is progressing and from all indications will be brought to a conclusion at an early date.

Any Perquimans County farmers interested in this program who have not already been contacted should get in touch with one of the following: Frank Skinner, Woodley Bunday, J. J. Skinner, Frank Jessup, W. S. Evans, Joe Perry, E. Q. White, Joshua Sutton, Ervin Turner, or if more convenient, call at the county agent's office.

Chappell Funeral Held Saturday P. M.

Funeral services for Claude Elliott Chappell, adopted son of the late Thomas and Mrs. Chappell of Perquimans County, who died at the Guilford Sanatorium last Thursday afternoon, were conducted at the Lynch Funeral Home last Saturday afternoon at four o'clock.

Surviving are the following foster brothers and sisters, C. R. Chappell, R. S. Chappell, Miss Gertrude Chappell and Mrs. Mary Long, all of Perquimans, and Mrs. Gladys Gough of Winston-Salem, and following own sisters: Mrs. Edgar Woodley of Creswell, Miss Pearl Elliott of Brooklyn, N. Y., and a brother, Bill Elliott of Blackstone, Va.

Burial was in the Bethel Cemetery. Pallbearers were William Hobbs, E. J. Proctor, Sr., Frank Ward, Ambrose Lon, William Corpew, all of Bethel and William Corpew of Edenton.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Porter of Chapel Hill, N. C., a daughter, Mary Maude, on February 18. Mrs. Porter is the former Miss Dixie Chappell of Belvidere.

W. M. U. TO MEET

The Woman's Missionary Union of the Baptist Church will meet Monday night at 7:30 P. M., March 19, at the church. Mrs. Warner Madre, the president urges all members to be present.

WINFALL NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Byrum and children, Karen Marie, and Wesley, of Norfolk, Va., spent the week-end with Mrs. W. G. Hollowell.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Bailey of Elizabeth City visited her sister, Mrs. W. G. Trueblood, Sunday. Mrs. Bailey was on her way to Duke Hospital, Durham for treatment. Mrs. Jimmie Earnhardt of Edenton accompanied them.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Hollowell, Sr., and Grover Martin and Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Whedbee, Sr., visited Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Whedbee in Norfolk, Va., Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Morgan and son, Skipper, motored to Galax, Va., over the week-end. Mrs. Morgan and son will spend two weeks with her mother.

Mr. and Mrs. White and daughter of Askeville, Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Temple and children and Mr. and Mrs. Bailey Temple of Newland were visitors at Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Hollowell's home Sunday.

Mrs. W. D. Anderson and Mary of Cherry Point, N. C., spent the week-end with Miss Audrey Umphlett and Jill Miller.

Mrs. J. H. Baker, who has been very sick for the past week, is able to be out again.

Mrs. J. L. Nixon is very sick with the flu.

Mrs. Johnnie Lane is able to be back at her duties at the post office after being very sick.

Mr. and Mrs. C. O. McCulloughs and children spent the week-end in Richmond, Va. Mr. McCulloughs returned to his duties at Camp Lejeune, N. C., Monday.

Little Rickie Trueblood, son of C. N. Trueblood was struck on the head while playing Sunday. Several stitches had to be taken. He was rushed to Chowan Hospital where he was treated.

SELECTED FOR EXAM

Calvin Butt, one of the five students chosen at Greensboro out of the twenty-two applicants for the Angier Duke Scholarship from this district, will leave Thursday for Duke University to enter the finals for the scholarship awards. Butt, son of L. E. Butt, of New Hope, is the president of Perquimans Student Government, attended Boys' State at Carolina, represents P. C. H. S. in the Albemarle Classroom of the Air, and is on the affirmative debating team for the State Triangular Debates.

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