

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

NOTE: This is the thirteenth of 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 1953. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.

Legislators have received their last paychecks and the House has anticipated adjournment by authorizing the Speaker to appoint a calendar committee. As yet these events mean little, if anything. Long delayed but decisive committee action on major items of legislation is jamming the calendar in the House, where members continue to battle at length over public legislation. Until the bond and appropriations measures pass the House, the end cannot be predicted. Some say that for the first time in 20 years, senators and representatives may pick May flowers in Raleigh.

Appropriations
Late Thursday afternoon, the joint appropriations subcommittee wound up its deliberations and announced that it would present its report for full committee consideration early next week. While recommending that \$7,315,778 be added to the budget and that retroactive pay increases for teachers and state employees be granted, the subcommittee proposed to balance the budget by using the \$17.8 million "cushion" fund as well as other available surpluses. If these proposals go through, the principal money problem remaining will be to meet debt service requirements on the \$85 million bond proposals, assuming that they are approved.

Finance
There is no assurance that the bond program will be passed as recommended by Governor Umstead. After the joint finance committee finished a second series of hearings on the \$13 million state institution bond issue, suggested amendments to all three bills were withdrawn to send the bills to the House floor for immediate consideration. At the same time, three new bills proposing to submit the state institution bonds to the people and to meet mental institution needs through a combination of legislative and voter approved bonds were reported without prejudice. On motion of committee chairman Rodman, all six bills were made a special order of business for Tuesday.

Finance committee members also demonstrated that "holding the line" can work both ways. After Rep. Rodman announced (1) that the budget can be balanced if present revenue laws are not tampered with and (2) that he would personally introduce a bill calling for a study of the state tax structure and for recommendations to the 1955 General Assembly as to fair and equitable new sources of revenue should new revenues be needed, the House committee let the axe fall freely. A full dozen measures, which would have reduced revenues, received unfavorable reports, but four more which did not materially affect revenues came out with committee approval. Two new bills of significance were SB 420, which would require electric membership corporations to pay the same state and local taxes now paid by private utilities, and HB 1145, which would reduce the per-machine tax on drink dispensing machines from \$15 to \$5.

Propositions and Grievances
In public session and by a convincing voice vote, the House committee on Counties, Cities and Towns gave an unfavorable report to HB 454, proposing a state-wide referendum on the sale of liquor, beer and wine. Brief discussion for and against local option preceded the final vote; six negative votes were formally recorded, but no minority report came out of the committee. A few hours later, a motion to recall the bill from the unfavorable calendar was beaten down in the House amid indications that dry sentiment was not organized to support the motion. Meanwhile, the Senate committee considering the same bill, undoubtedly influenced by the earlier House committee action, postponed the Senate version indefinitely. This parliamentary move made a minority report impossible. Proponents of the bill are still seeking effective ways in which to secure favorable legislation action. Hearings given proponents and opponents of a bill to outlaw pari-mutuel betting (and thereby dog race tracks in Carteret and Currituck counties) generated a lot of heat but few acts to guide attentive legislators, who postponed voting on the measure until next week.

Constitutional Amendments and Redistricting
Despite the argument on Thursday that this General Assembly was proposing too many changes to the state constitution, the Senate was able to muster, although just barely, the 3/5 majority necessary to pass on second reading two companion measures (suggested by Lt. Gov. Hodges) which would eliminate sessions of the legislature if approved by the people. Although one of the bills failed to pass third reading on Friday when several senators were not on the floor, the companion bill was quickly reconsidered and both bills will be up again for passage next Tuesday. On the House side of the capitol, the bill proposing annual sessions of the General Assembly, was less successful and failed to pass third reading by a slender margin. Efforts to resession the House

and redistrict the Senate were strayed Tuesday night when the House senatorial districts committee rejected the two bills designed to carry out the mandate of the constitution. A minority report on the House measure is still possible. Taking a different approach, Rep. Powell on Thursday proposed a constitutional amendment (HB 1131), which, if approved by the people, would require the Secretary of State to reapportion the House after each federal census in accordance with the constitutional allocation formula instead of leaving it up to the slow-acting legislature.

Highways and Highway Safety
The well-organized effort to raise the truck axle weight limits met dedicated opposition in the House and the bill passed only after being rewritten to allow a weight tolerance not much more than that already permitted at highway weighing stations. Meanwhile, House Judiciary 1 labored over driver financial responsibility and how to curb speeding and reckless driving. Favorable action is expected for the measure which would encourage more drivers to secure liability insurance. At the same time, HB 143, which calls for mandatory driver license suspensions for certain speeding and reckless driving violations, was rewritten to excuse motorists whose licenses have been suspended under the bill from proving financial responsibility on reissuance of their licenses and to reduce suspension periods. It is now on the House calendar.

The more highly-publicized issue of hot rods on the highways has resulted in another compromise which would permit charges to be brought against the owner of a speeding hot rod whose license number officers are able to copy, even though they are not able to identify the driver. There will be widespread interest in two bills passed by the House relating to a motorist's liability. One provides that contributory negligence shall no longer be a total bar to recovery in a negligence action but will be considered in reducing the total amount of damages recoverable. The other does away with a long-standing judicial rule that a motorist, though operat-

1952 HATCHINGS UP SLIGHTLY
Revised estimates place 1952 chick hatchings in North Carolina at 69,899,000—up 1.7 per cent from the 68,890,000 chicks hatched during 1951. Chick output in the State has increased rapidly since 1947 when only 35,640,000 chicks were produced.

White-Bevan Vows Spoken Saturday In Boston, Mass.

The marriage of Miss Elizabeth Buell Bevan, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Frank W. Bevan, of Boston, Mass., and Zach Toms White, son of Mrs. Thomas Skinner (White) and the late Mr. White of Hertford, took place Saturday, April 11, 1953, at 3:00 P. M., at the Trinity Methodist Church in Boston, with the Rev. Clark Hunt and the Rev. Frank W. Bevan, father of the bride officiating.

The church was decorated with white stock, white iris and palms. Mrs. David Bevan, sister-in-law of the bride, was soloist. The bride, given in marriage by her father, wore a wedding gown of Chantilly lace and nylon tulle. The bride's bouquet was of stephanotis, white orchid and small white carnations with ivy streamers.

Mrs. Stewart Otto, of Van West, Ohio, sister of the bride, was matron of honor and wore an aqua gown of nylon tulle, trimmed with lace, matching that of the bride in style. Her hat was a pink floral tiara. Her flowers were pink feather carnations and pink hyacinth buds.

The flower girl was Miss Barbara Beth Otto, niece of the bride. She wore a white organdy dress with pink taffeta trim. Her hat was a pink floral tiara. She carried a pink and white Colonial bouquet.

Thomas S. White, Jr., of Durham, brother of the bridegroom, was best man.

Ushers were Alvin L. Rust, of Boston, and David Bevan of Troy, New York.

The bride's mother wore a plum afternoon dress with pink hat.

The bridegroom's mother wore a taupe afternoon dress with a lilac hat. Following the ceremony the parents of the bride gave a reception in the church parlors.

For travel the bride wore a navy blue suit with blue accessories and white hat.

The bride received her education at DePauw University, Greencastle, Ind., and Katherine Girls School, Boston. She spent the past two years in Helsinki, Finland, at the American

Legation.
The bridegroom is a graduate of Duke University and the Harvard School of Business Administration and is a certified public accountant. The couple will be at home at 281 Paul Street, Brookline, Mass., after May 1.

MINUTES OF MEETING BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Perquimans County Board of Education met in special session on Tuesday, April 7, 1953, at 7:30 P. M. All members were present. Chairman J. E. Morris presided.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. A letter from New Home Appliance Company was read and discussed. The superintendent was authorized to see Mr. James and compromise for last visit to repair pipes at Perquimans Training School. The superintendent stated that Mr. Batton had waterproofed the agriculture and physical education building.

The chairman adjourned the Board for the purpose of re-organization. The secretary called for nominations for a chairman. J. E. Morris was nominated and unanimously elected as chairman. Mr. Morris thanked the members of the Board for their vote of confidence.

The chairman then called for nominations for a superintendent of schools. J. T. Biggers was nominated and unanimously elected for a term of two years beginning July 1, 1953.

After some discussion as to the advantages of two elementary school committees, a motion was made, seconded, and passed creating two elementary school committees for the white schools in Perquimans County—one for the Hertford Grammar School and one for the Perquimans County Central Grammar School. The fol-

lowing were appointed to serve on these committees for a period of two years:

Hertford Grammar—Mrs. H. C. Sullivan, C. T. Eley, J. H. Corprew, Jr., Mrs. Claude Long, Preston Nixon. Perquimans County Central Grammar—E. Q. White, W. H. Mathews, Roy Winslow, Julian Mathews and Mrs. Charlie Umphlett.

The following were named to the Perquimans High School Committee: Silas Whedbee, Carson Spivey, Roy S. Chappell, Edwin S. White, Howard Williams, Mrs. Frank Bray and Mrs. A. H. Edwards.

The following were named to the Negro committee: E. L. Brooks, Haywood Martin, Sam Jennings, Dewey Overton, George Hollowell.

The resignation of Z. E. Fearing was read and accepted with regret, effective as of April 17, 1953.

The resignation of Mrs. Martha E. Perry was read and accepted, effective as of May 28, 1953.

The superintendent gave figures showing the average daily attendance for the various schools, financial standing of the lunch rooms, and the school budget. He thanked the Board for their vote of confidence in re-electing him for another two year term and pledged his cooperation in carrying out the policies of the Board.

After much discussion as to the high school program the meeting was adjourned.

J. T. BIGGERS, Secretary.

Chances of Travel
Nervous Passenger (on maiden flight with nephew)—"H-here, t-t-tell me when you're going to loop the loop again."
Nephew—"Well, I don't always know."

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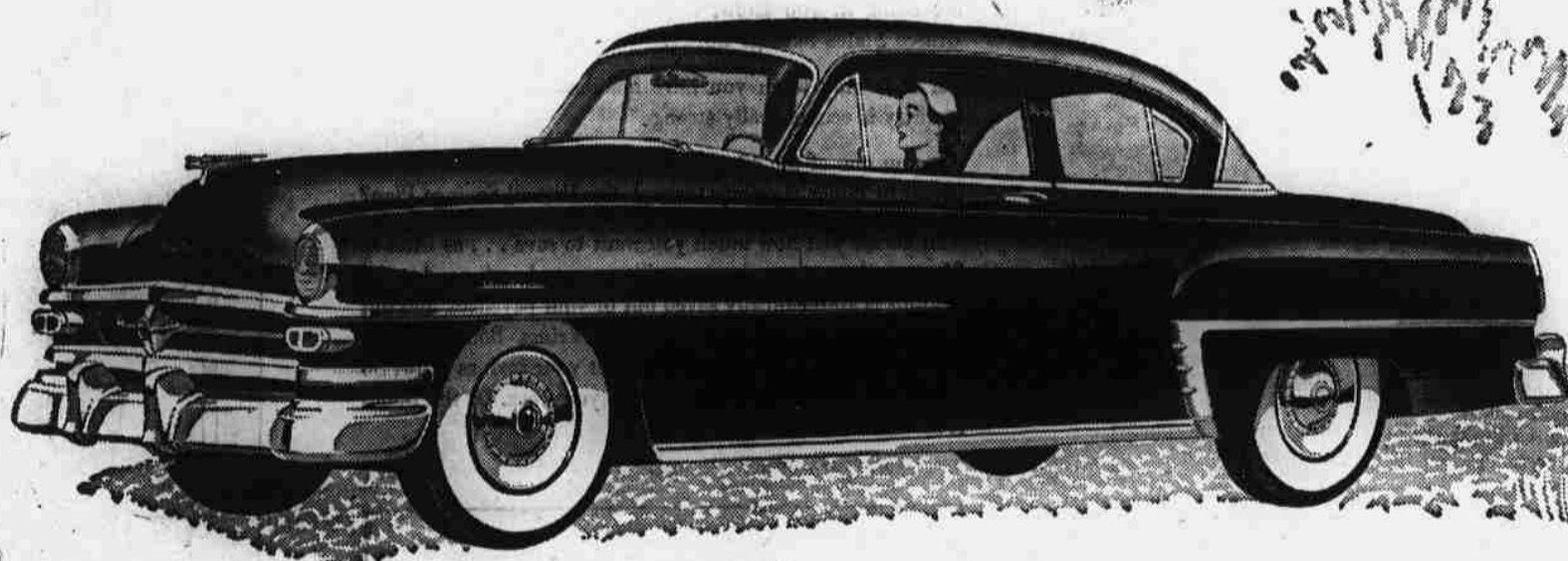
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