

## WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

This is one of a series of weekly summaries prepared by the legislative staff of the Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina, General Assembly, as a guide to the general interest and major importance.

Introductions this session are now running 25% below the rate of 1953. By far the greater part of the decrease has occurred in local bills.

1954—Public bills, 726; local bills, 81; total introductions, 807; bills ratified, 671.  
1953—Public bills, 667; local bills, 567; total introductions, 1234; bills ratified, 599.

Decrease—Public bills, 8%; local bills, 36%; total introductions, 25%; bills ratified, 24%.  
Finance  
The income tax withholding plan cleared the first legislative hurdle Wednesday when it was approved by the House Finance Committee. Although there was considerable sharp criticism of the bill, it was approved by a vote of 38-13. The committee was considering HB 768, a separate bill, and voted to incorporate the bill into the general Revenue Bill; the essential portions of HB 768 are already in the Revenue Bill.

768 are already in the Revenue Bill. On Friday, Sen. Kirkman, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, introduced the identical bill, thus making it possible for his committee also to deal with the withholding provision apart from the general Revenue Bill.

Governor Hodges' TV address on school financing did not provide enough incentive to members of the House Education Committee, which reported unfavorably HB 691. The bill embodied a recommendation of the School Finance Study Committee and would have established a system of incentive payments to counties based upon their willingness and ability to appropriate increased sums to supplement State school funds.

There was much talk but no action in the Senate concerning the resolution which sought to direct the Appropriations Committee to report back a bill with provision for a 7% increase in teachers' salaries. At week's end the Bill; the essential portions of HB 768 are already in the Revenue Bill.



Scheduled to graduate June 3 from the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., is Midshipman First Class William H. Batts, Jr., son of Mrs. Vazelle S. Jessup of 206 Grubb Street, Hertford.

Upon graduation, Batts will receive a Bachelor of Science degree and be commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy. He entered the Naval Academy on a Congressional appointment in June, 1953, after graduating from Charles L. Cunn High School in Wilson.

proprations Committee.

### Agriculture

Tobacco producers suckers faster than P. T. Barnum's one-minute rate, and tobacco growers clashed with buyers and marketers this week over MH-30, a chemical which destroys the suckers. Buyers claimed that the substance—maleic hydrazide—also destroyed the quality of the tobacco, and they urged the adoption of SB 331 which labels MH-30 as an "economic poison" and makes it unlawful to use it on or sell it for use on growing tobacco. Some 300 growers who attended the hearing before the Senate Agriculture Committee disagreed with the charge and urged that the bill be killed. Committee action is expected next week. Other new bills this week included HB 805, which appropriates \$38,000 for the coming biennium for a swine evaluation station at State College; HB 821, which appropriates \$37,000 for a poultry diagnostic laboratory in Moore County; and HB 833, which would make sure that tobacco flues are exempt from the State sales and use tax.

### Education

While the Senate Judiciary I Committee decided to kill HB

837, which would promote attendance at paraded high-way races, the House Committee on Propositions and Grievances gave the green light to HB 808 which would promote attendance at paraded dog and horse races. The bill, said to be aimed at reactivating dog racing at Moyock in Currituck County, is cast as a statewide measure to meet Constitutional objections. It would authorize a special election in any county on the question of establishing dog or horse racing tracks and would establish a State Racing Commission to regulate the tracks. Pari-mutual betting would be legalized, with 87% of the take being paid out to patrons; the Racing Commission would receive 25% of the remainder, and after paying expenses it would remit any excess to the Department of Revenue to be divided 1/3 to the State General Fund, 1/3 to the counties having racing, and 1/3 to the counties not having racing. After hearing both proponents and opponents Friday morning the House committee approved the bill by an 8-3 vote. The bill will now go to the House Appropriations Committee.

### Roads and Highway Safety

Identical new bills, SB 340 and HB 834, seek to plug the gap left when the NC Supreme Court declared existing statutory authority to suspend drivers' licenses of habitual violators unconstitutional because of a lack of standards to guide the Department of Motor Vehicles in determining who was a habitual violator. The bills establish a system of point values for specified traffic violations and authorize the Department to suspend the license of any person who accumulates a specified total of points during a 3-year period. A warning letter would be required as a driver accumulates points, and after he has more than half the number normally required for suspension, the Department could require a conference and could assist the driver to a driver improvement clinic, the successful completion of which would subtract points from the driver's total. Upon suspension, point totals would be erased. Licenses could be suspended for a maximum of 90 days for a first suspension, six months for the second, and one year for a third or subsequent suspension.

### Schools

HB 753, to provide for a 10-month, 11-year school system in lieu of the present 9-month, 12-year system, was shunted onto a legislative sidetrack Thursday when it was reported without prejudice by the House Committee on Education and re-referred to Appropriations, where it is expected to be assigned to the same subcommittee that is studying the proposal sent forward by Rep. Kerr (HB 425) to provide for the operation of the schools on a 12-month basis. HB 774, to appropriate additional funds to the

State Board of Education for the regional agriculture research, the same treatment. HB 837, introduced by Rep. Hill of Durham and others would resolve alleged differences between the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education, by specifying that the State Board of Education is the policy-making body and that the State Superintendent is to head the administrative staff which administers the policy.

### Water Resources

The House passed a committee substitute for HB 33, the water agencies reorganization bill. The substitute departed significantly from the original bill only in omitting specific qualifications for members of the Board of Water Resources, and in deleting a provision for eventual abolition of the State Stream Sanitation Committee. The boating regulation proposal, HB 773, was sent to a subcommittee of the House Wildlife Resources Committee for further study after numerous changes were suggested at a public hearing.

### Insurance

SB 335 would create within the State Insurance Department an Insurance Commission to replace the present insurance advisory board. The new commission would retain the existing functions of the advisory board, and would take over from the Commissioner of Insurance the task of acting on proposals to increase or decrease insurance charges or set up new rate schedules. The Commissioner would be a member and chairman of the Commission. The House passed HB 823, which would increase the fees charged by the Commissioner for examination of foreign insurance companies.

### LIBRARY NEWS

New books in the Perquimans County Library this week include The Complete Book of Roses, by Rockwell and Grayson; Emotional Problems of Childhood, by Liebman.

This week's adult fiction includes: Dear and Glorious Physician, by Caldwell; The Quality of Mercy, by Downes; Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris, by Paul Gallico; Danger, Marines At Work, by Fuller, and others by Eberhardt, Ames and Giles. The library has also added more than 100 new books for

children and young people. Books of 1954, published since are: Millions of Years Ago, and The People of Turkey, Borders That Made History, Chess, Chess, and Fun Time Paper Folding, Drawing, and Uranium and Other Miracle Metals and several biographies.

Of interest to many people, 30 books of the American Heritage series chiefly historical fiction. There are also several teenage romances, sports stories and career books.

For the very young are 50 well illustrated easy books and story books.

### CIRCLE MEETING

The Mary Long Circle of Beth-el Church met Monday night at the home of Mrs. Thomas Fleetwood. The meeting was opened by singing "I Love To Tell The Story," after which Mrs. William Corpew gave the devotional followed by Mrs. Wade Jordan leading in prayer.

A very interesting program was given by Mrs. William Corpew with several members taking part.

The president, Mrs. Dewey Perry, Jr., had charge of old and new business, after which she dismissed the group with prayer. Those present were Mrs. Thomas Fleetwood, hostess, Mrs. Ruby Harrell, Mrs. Ray Spruill, Mrs. William Corpew, Mrs. Emmett

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1954, Mrs. Charles W. ... with Mrs. ... Mrs. Wade Jordan ... Mrs. Perry, Jr. and two visitors, Miss Claude Lee Corpean and Miss Betty Fleetwood.

### Farm Home Week

June 9 Through 12

Home Demonstration Club members are looking forward to Farm Home Week at N. C. State College campus from June 9 through 12. There will be many interesting features and special classes conducted throughout the week. A few of the subjects will be: "New Furniture From Old," "Women Don't Talk Enough," "Money Makers From the Kitchen" and "Hats We Made On Parade."

Room reservations may be made through the home agent's office. There will be a charge \$2.00 per person for one night, \$2.00 for two nights and \$3.00 for three nights, which is including in prayer.

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**Taylor Theatre**  
EDENTON, N. C.

Wednesday and Thursday, May 20-21—  
Alan Freed in  
**"GO, JOHNNY GO"**  
19 ROCK 'N ROLL STARS  
17 NEW ROCK 'N ROLL HITS

Friday and Saturday, May 22-23—  
Susan Hayward and Jeff Chandler in  
**"THUNDER IN THE SUN"**  
Technicolor

Sunday and Monday, May 24-25—  
Debbie Reynolds and Tony Randall in  
**"THE MATING GAME"**  
CinemaScope and Color

Tuesday, May 26—  
Sophia Loren, Burt Reynolds and Anthony Perkins in  
REGINA O'BRIEN'S  
**"DESIRE UNDER THE ELM"**  
AUBREY REYNOLDS PRESENTS

Coming May 27-28—  
GROVER LESTER  
**"JOY RIDE"** and  
**"SPY CRAY"**

**HIWAY 17**  
Drive-In Theatre  
Edenton, Hertford Road  
NOW OPEN EVERY SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

Friday and Saturday, May 28-29—  
James Stewart and Kim Novak in  
**"VERTIGO"**  
Technicolor

Sunday, May 30—  
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