

## Weekly Legislative Summary

The 1968 General Assembly convened on Wednesday, February 14. Because the death of Gov. 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 Principal Clerk; Leroy Clark, Jr., was re-elected Reading Clerk, and W. Brooks Poole was re-elected Sergeant-at-Arms. Rep. H. Clifton Blue of Moore was elected Speaker of the House. Mrs. Annie E. Cooper was re-elected Principal Clerk Sam J. Burrow, Jr., was named Reading Clerk, and Joseph H. Warren was re-elected Sergeant-at-Arms.

**The State 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 session. The Legislative Building Governing Commission will consist of the President of the Senate, two persons appointed by him who are members of the Senate at the time of their appointments, the Speaker of the House, and 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, February 16, 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, sick leave, salary increases, and other purposes. About \$9 million additional funds went to the Consolidated University of North

Carolina. \$2 million was set aside for conversion of community colleges to 4-year institutions. The probation and parole programs received sizeable increases, as did the mental institutions. Salary increases 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 Britt 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 Committee 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 his message read to each house, recommended an increase in the dependency exemptions or 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 8 (HB 22) to increase income tax exemptions to \$500 for each dependent; HB 29 and HB 60, reducing the sales tax on news vendors; HB 41, reducing taxes on commercial fishing boats; HB 7, exempting medicines sold on prescription of veterinarians from the sales tax; and HB 58 exempting certain resort cottages and apartments from the 3% tax

on gross rentals.  
**Senate Redistricting**  
This painful subject moved to the floor 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 v. Carr, and the fact that the Republican party will undoubtedly make a real effort in 1964 to capitalize on a 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 school attendance personnel. HB 68, 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 \$1.50. HB 9 requires that new cars sold after January 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.

**WORKS ON CONSERVATION**  
Richard Harrell is thinning a stand of pines on his farm on the Harvey Point Road. The trees to be removed were marked before he started cutting. He is cutting the trees of poor quality for pulpwood and leaving the better trees properly spaced for maximum growth. To produce maximum growth a fully stocked stand of pines should be thinned at intervals of approximately five years on most soils in our area. Josiah Proctor is marking some of his pines for thinning. J. M. Fleetwood, Jr., is setting out several thousand pine and poplar seedlings during February.

**Charleston's Tour**  
March 17 - April 7  
For the sixteenth consecutive year some of Charleston's most historic homes will be opened from March 17 through April 7th for the special tour sponsored by Historic Charleston Foundation. At this time Charleston's famed Magnolia, Middleton and Cypress Gardens should be a rainbow of color. All tour proceeds will be used in the Ansonborough Rehabilitation Project. Homes will be open every Monday through Friday morning from 10 A. M. to 1 P. M., and on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5 P. M. Young ladies of Charleston

ruined for the task, serve as hostesses in all the homes. Folders giving detailed information concerning the tour, with listings of the houses to be shown, can be obtained from Historic Charleston Foundation, 21 Meeting Street, Charleston, S. C.

**Pittman Speaker For Ruritan Club Meeting**  
Dr. Pittman of the diagnostic laboratory spoke to the Ruritan Club on swine diseases and sanitation, at their regular meeting on Monday night. The subject was of interest to the Ruritan for a number of them are hog growers.

The club decided to assist in sponsoring the fat stock show this spring, but their vote was to sponsor without donating any money. The previous motion to sponsor a Little League ball team this summer was tabled until further information could be secured. One new member was added to the roll and a committee of John Erwin Copeland, Linwood

Taylor and Lester Copeland was appointed to set up plans for a barbecue and barbecue chicken supper.

The club bought a speaker's stand that Lester Copeland brought from the national convention in Atlantic City, N. J.

**Blasphemy Ignorance**  
His grace was giving his lecture.  
"You modern boys want too much," he said. "Do you know what I was getting when I married your aunt?"  
"No," replied the nephew, "and I'll bet you didn't either."

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

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 21-22-23—  
Doris Day, Stephen Boyd, Jimmy Durante, Martha Raye

—in—  
"JUMBO"  
Climax and Color

Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, February 24-25-26—  
Sue Lyon, James Mason and Shelly Winters in  
"LOLITA"

Children under 16 not admitted unless with an adult.

Sunday Shows 2:30 and 8:30  
Monday and Tuesday Shows 7:30

Wednesday, February 27—  
PLAY LUCKY — IT'S FREE  
Van Johnson in  
"BATTLEGROUND"

# SALE



**One Group Tiffin Stemware**  
REG. \$2.25 EACH  
Only While Stock Lasts  
**\$1.00**

**ONE LOT OF Costume Jewelry 1/2 price**

**ONE SPECIAL GROUP WATCHES 50% off**

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**Haviland China**  
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Regular \$31.95 Value  
Now Only **\$19.95**

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There's the Chevy II Nova, also available in an SS version. Special instrument cluster. Front bucket seats. All-steel trim. Distinctive SS identification. Fourteen-inch wheels and tires\* with full wheel disks. Three-speed shift or Powerglide\* with floor-mounted shift console.

Or the Corvair Monza Spyder with complete instrumentation, special identification, and an air-cooled Turbocharged Six.

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\*Optional at extra cost.



Top—Corvair Sting Ray Sport Coupe and Corvair Monza Spyder Club Coupe. Below—Left, Chevrolet Impala SS Convertible; right, Chevy II Nova 140 SS Coupe. (All four available in both convertible and coupe models. Super Sport and Spyder equipment optional at extra cost.)

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