

## Weekly Legislative Summary

**Editor's Note:** This is one 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 1965. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.

Early birds abounded this week in the Statehouse as well as in nature's wonderlands gambled with spring. On Tuesday a vital stage in the budget process was reached a week or so earlier than usual, when Chairman White and Zollicoffer announced the membership of the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee. And on Thursday the second annual N. C. State name change fracas was concluded more than on full month ahead of the 1963 timetable. With a few sharp controversies on stage or in the wings, with talk of a firm May 1 local bill deadline, and with little prospect of major tax legislation to complicate budgeting, it begins to appear that there may be some hope for adjournment in time for this year's commencement season.

Last Wednesday evening legislators and state officials were treated to a lively round of clogging at the annual fish fry sponsored by the State Employees' Association. Next week's most violent exercise should begin Tuesday when floor debates are scheduled to open in both houses on the omnibus electric utility bill. (SB 95—HB 255).

**Appropriations And Finance**  
Although Santa's knee is getting a bit crowded, a few more hopefuls clambered aboard this week (and surely there are more to come) hoping to find their stockings filled when the Appropriations Committee open their bag later in the session.

Requests included: \$37,527 for development of Pettigrew State Park partially as an historic site and partly for recreation; \$32,500 to C & D for a forest fire control airplane for the Rockingham District; \$205,000 for a library addition to Elizabeth City State College; \$550,000 for land acquisition at Western Carolina College; \$6,000 to restore Fort Butler in Cherokee County; and a Beaufort County request for \$2,675.22 in gasoline tax refunds lost due to tardy filing.

The Assembly's earlier action in raising its own subsistence allowance seems to have prompted a gold rush. Off for the holidays this week are the General Assembly's employees (SB 190), the trustees of the State Library (SB 208), and the Dare County Commissioners and Board of Education (HB 455 and 456). The last three noted bills would peg subsistence allowances to the levels prescribed for state boards and commissions.

**On the tax side,** the week's take netted three new bills—one to authorize sales tax refunds to sanitary districts (HB 418); another, to revise the inheritance tax laws affecting life insurance proceeds (HB 467); and a third to enlarge the list of oleomargarine ingredients not subject to the 10 cents per pound oleo tax. (SB 211). Action on tax measures included an unfavorable report meted out by the Senate Finance Committee to the bill to allow taxpayers to credit overpayments of estimated income taxes against the following year's payments (SB 101).

**Manufacturers And Labor**  
HB 100, Representative Henry Hill's bill to raise the state minimum wage from 85 cents to \$1.00 per hour, sailed through the House Thursday on a voice vote after encountering only scattered opposition and cleared the Senate Friday with equal ease.

In 1959 North Carolina became the first southern state to adopt a minimum wage law, and the act has been expanded by each succeeding General Assembly. At present 33 other states have such laws, 21 of which provide for rates of \$1.00 per hour or more. In some of these jurisdictions, such as Alaska and New Jersey, the state act calls for a higher wage than the \$1.45 an hour guaranteed by federal law for employees engaged in producing goods for interstate commerce.

**Indian Territory**  
Indian affairs of little concern to most eastern states, commanded unusual attention this week. On Tuesday a delegation from the Eastern Band of Cherokee

Indians appeared before a joint meeting of the Wildlife Committees, on the warpath against the Wildlife Resources Commission which seems to be asserting unwelcome jurisdiction over the hunting grounds. Their proposed bill, introduced earlier this session (SB 39), would vest jurisdiction over reservation hunting and fishing regulations in the federal government. More peaceful was the proposed initiation of the Haliwa Indians of Halifax and Warren Counties into the small official fraternity of North Carolina Indian tribes (the western Cherokees, the Cherokees of Robeson County and the Lumbees), under SB 198, introduced Wednesday by Sen. Allsbrook.

**Motor Vehicles**  
Congestion on the highways is matched by the continual flow of motor vehicle legislation coursing through the legislative halls. Augmenting the stream flow this week were four new bills. SB 192 would allow the Department of Motor Vehicles to divulge the name of the insurer filed on accident reports. SB 193 seeks to require motor vehicle liability insurance underwriters to include coverage of damages caused by hit and run drivers and drivers with insufficient insurance in the uninsured motorist clause, and also simplifies the task of proving in court that the other driver was uninsured at the time of the accident. Driving under the influence of any drug causing the driver to lose physical or mental control would be subjected to the same penalties as drunken driving by SB 202. Finally, the Wildlife Resources Commission would suffer the same fate as the Highway Patrol did last session if SB 205 is successful in grounding their law enforcement airplanes.

During the week three motor vehicle measures were ratified—the "Good Samaritan" law (SB 82—Ch. 176); an act specifying the maximum penalties for temporary auto larceny (HB 120—Ch. 193); and an act to preclude reinstatement of revoked registration and suspended licenses until 30 days after surrender of the plates or license (SB 47—Ch. 205).

**Education**  
At last the emotionally charged issue of a name for N. C. State has been settled with apparent good feeling on all sides, at least among legislators just a little weary of the whole controversy. As with much of the Assembly's work, the struggle took place in corridors and offices, reaching its climax Wednesday night when it became apparent that the opponents of HB 24 (proposing the name "North Carolina State University at Raleigh") did not have the votes to pass the High-

er Education Committee's substitute (proposing "The University of North Carolina at Raleigh"). An expected rules fight did not materialize, and by noon Thursday there was little for the packed galleries to observe but the signing of an amicable accord. All that remained was the rather strange prospect of the House concurring in a Senate amendment identical to the bill which passed the House in the first place.

The week's most complex bill (HB 435 and its companion SB 204) is apparently designed to adapt the state's school administrative structure to the federal aid to education bill, virtually assured of passage on Capitol Hill. Its major thrust is to authorize counties to operate as a single school district rather than under the present system of district school committees operating under a county board of education. In addition, it would strengthen the power of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to revoke teachers' certificates for immoral conduct, liberalize the State Board of Education's authority to adopt text books, authorize local boards to do away with supplementary reader fees, and require private schools to be licensed by the state.

**Miscellaneous**  
The resounding defeat last week of the bill to abolish cap-



**FRIENDLY NATIVE**—Actress Carol Baker found this native of Africa quite friendly. It's called a "bush baby." Carroll was making a picture in Kenya.

ital punishment was not the end of the road for the subject. The Senate staged its longest debate of the session Wednesday on Senator Thomas White's bill to repeal the jury's present discretion to recommend mercy in capital cases, then defeated the bill.

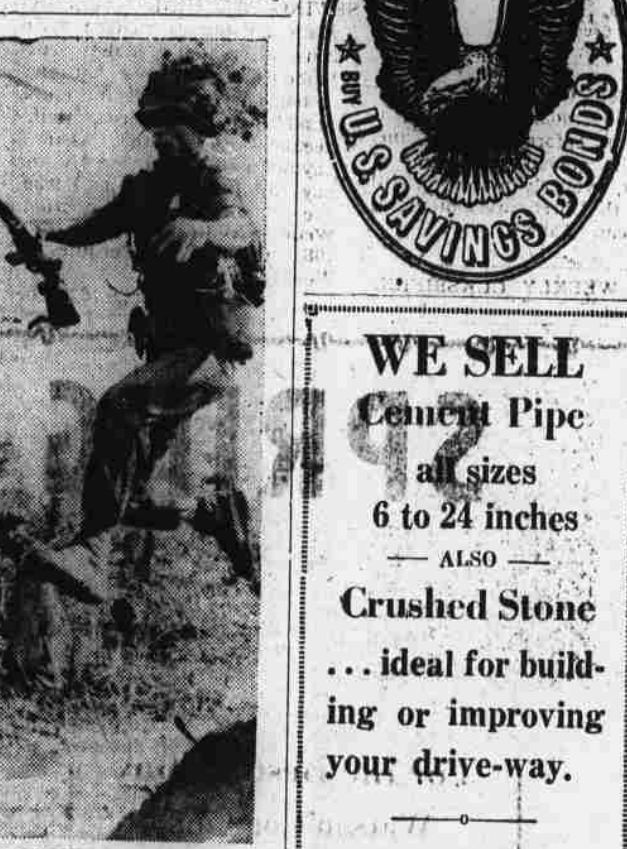
Tuesday the Senate indulged in a reading of the Journal for the first (and probably last) time this session. Senatorial patience lasted through the bills intruded when Senator Bailey dispatched the Journal to its usual oblivion by moving that the reading clerk skip to the last page.

**Candid Comment**  
The music teacher was proudly presenting her pupils in a recital. After the extended musical program, ice cream, cake and fruit were served. One of the young musicians had brought her little brother along as a guest.

As the youngster was taking his departure the teacher asked: "What, Jimmie, did you enjoy the recital?"

"I sure did," Jimmie replied, "that is all but the music."

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