

Weekly Legislative Summary: Session Nearing End

Notes: This is the last of a series of weekly summaries prepared by the Legislative Research Commission on the work of the North Carolina General Assembly of 1967. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.

A Review of the 1967 General Assembly
With this issue of the Weekly Summary we begin a review of the 1967 General Assembly, to be completed in the next issue.

Broadly viewed, the 1967 Assembly has left its imprint most clearly in the areas of court organization and procedure, water resources law and programs, correctional and jail reform, tax reduction and tax law revision, business activity, health and welfare, election law, and educational policy. Two politically explosive issues also required an extraordinary investment of legislative energies before being finally disposed of, "brown bagging" and Congressional redistricting.

This year saw a continuation of efforts at court reform and reorganiza-

tion underway since 1965, with an unusual record of success. Two products of the work of the Commission on the Courts rank with the major achievements of the session: the creation of an intermediate court of appeals to help relieve the burden of an overworked Supreme Court and the adoption of uniform jury selection law, with elimination of all professional exemptions from jury duty. Also adopted was a Courts Commission recommendation for an omnibus revision of numerous statutes needing minor amendment in the wake of a decade of court reform. A reorganization of the system of Superior Court solicitors was enacted today by House approval of a Senate-passed bill. Finally, a new set of Rules of Civil Procedure—the first major revision of a century—was enacted after years of careful spadework. The General Statutes Commission has been patiently at work on this epic for seven years, at the request of the North Carolina Bar Association.

Water resources legislation has been another area of unusual productivity this session. After eight

years of virtually no legislative activity in the field, the 1967 session has brought two landmark statutes and a host of lesser changes. The first of the new laws reorganizes the Department of Water Resources with two principal changes: adding to its functions that of air pollution control (and renaming the agency as the "Department of Water and Air Resources"), and combining the Board of Water Resources and the Stream Sanitation Committee into a single Board of Water and Air Resources. This merger eliminates a nagging problem that has plagued the department since its creation—the existence of two policy boards within a single department. The second ma-

jor new law, growing out of the long water problems of the phosphate mining area of Eastern North Carolina, is the "capacity use areas" act. It gives the department limited authority to regulate the use of water in areas where water shortages or conflicts exist or are impending—the first regulatory authority over the use of water to be enacted in North Carolina, other than an unworkable irrigation permit law that was repealed several years ago.

The combination of the Water-Air Board reorganization and the capacity use areas law gives North Carolina a unified program of coordination and control of both water quality and quantity that is unparalleled in any of the east-

ern states. In addition to these two laws, several other program measures requested by the department either have been enacted or appear to stand a fair chance of enactment, involving flood plains management, dam safety certification, state participation in water supply storage in federal reservoir projects, well construction standards and water use information. Other water resources legislation of the 1967 session includes a law providing controls over marshland dredging operations, and amendments to the small watershed laws which pave the way for more effective county and city participation in watershed work, and will enable watershed sponsors to include recreational facilities and

fish and game habitat replacement in their programs. Looking toward the 1969 General Assembly, if the House approves a Senate-passed resolution that directs a study of the need for reorganizing the conservation and development activities of state government, there is the prospect of legislative consideration of natural resources programs as a whole. The Legislative Research Commission has also been directed to review the actual operation of the new water laws and report to the 1969 Assembly its recommendations for further legislation.

Two significant new laws have been placed on the books regarding jail and prison administration. One of these reorganizes the

state prisons administration in a new State Department of Correction. It also incorporates contemporary thought on the humanization and individualizing of treatment of prisoners in order to speed their safe return to the free community and to improve their chances of rehabilitation. The other significant new law seeks to improve local jail conditions and provide for the basic needs of prisoners in jails. It requires the Commissioner of Public Welfare to develop minimum jail standards to be met by localities, and provides for training of jail personnel and improved medical services. As a followup to the jail reform effort, an interagency study commission has been created to ex-

amine and report to the 1969 Assembly on such matters as detention of alcoholics and juveniles, local jail financing problems and the appropriate roles for state and local government in the field of jail administration.

CARD OF THANKS

The family of Fred T. Mathews wishes to express appreciation for all the many expressions of sympathy shown us since his death.

Mrs. Fred T. Mathews and Family.

CARD OF THANKS

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stuller express their sincere thanks and appreciation for the cards, flowers and expressions of sympathy at the death of Mrs. Stuller's mother, Mrs. Frank A. Hoover, who died in Pennsylvania.



KEEP IT CLEAN

America the Beautiful... Is Everybody's Job

It's the job of every family that spreads a picnic on a roadside table.
It's the job of every boatman who cruises the lakes and waterways.
Every driver, every walker, every flier.
That's why our Association throws its whole-hearted support each year into the Keep America Beautiful campaign.

Lovely country we have here. Let's keep it that way.

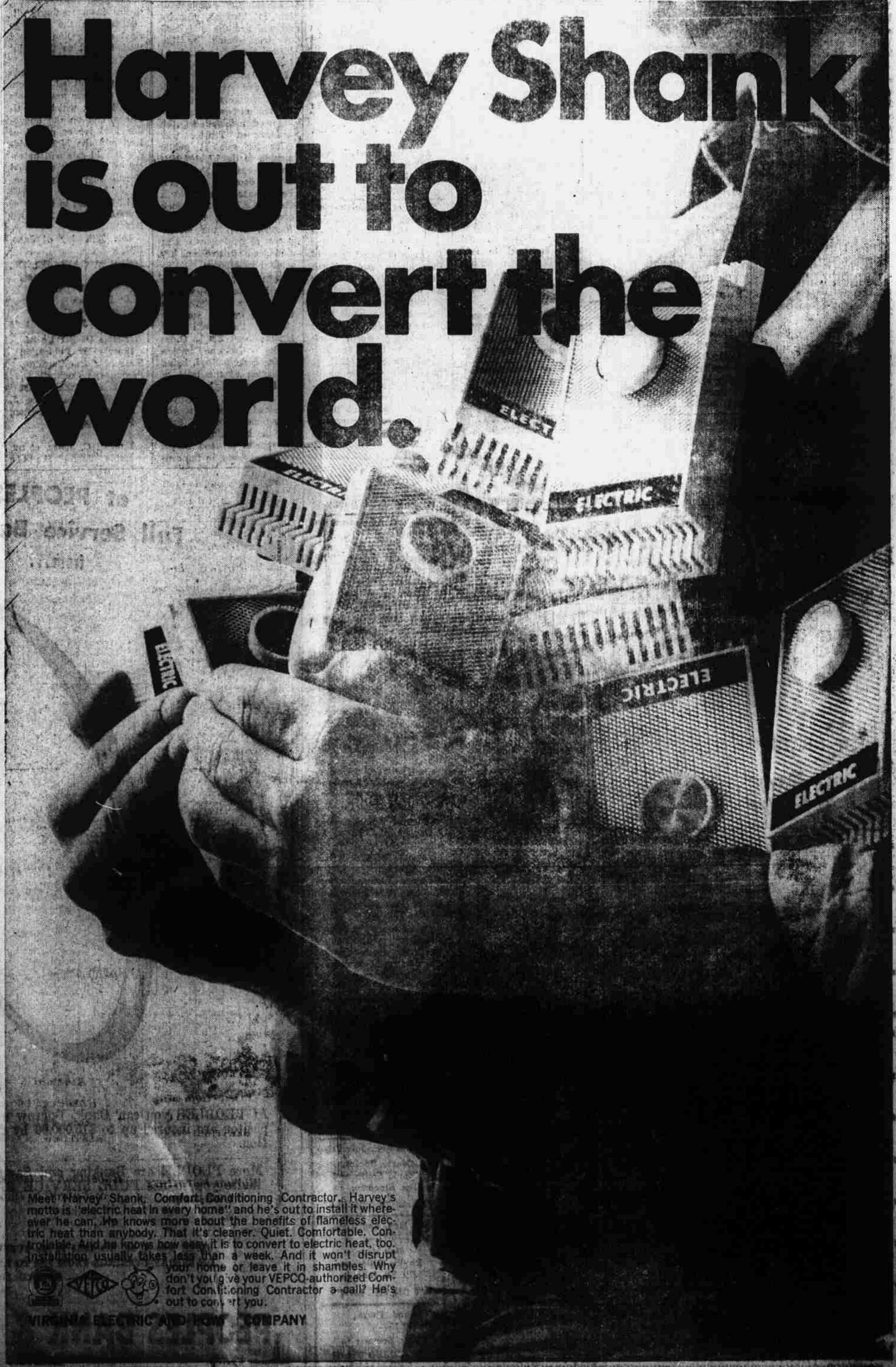
UNITED STATES BREWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
Branch Bank and Trust Company Building
Suite 903
Raleigh, North Carolina

DEPENDABLE CARS
MARKED DOWN FOR CLEARANCE

- 1966 Chevrolet Impala 4-door
- 1966 Dodge (8) Monaco 4-dr. Sedan
- 1965 Ford 2-door (8) H. T., P/S A/C
- 1964 Dodge 4-door (8) H. T. P/S
- 1964 Ford 4-door (8) Galaxie 500
- 1964 Chevrolet (8) Impala 4-dr. H. T.
- 1964 Dodge 2-door
- 1964 Plymouth (6) 4-door Sedan
- 1963 Chevrolet 4-door Hardtop
- 1962 Chevrolet 4-door V-8 Hardtop
- 1962 Plymouth (8) 4-door
- 1962 Chevrolet 4-door Hardtop
- 1962 Buick 4-door
- 1961 Ford 2-door Hardtop
- 1961 Falcon 4-door
- 1961 Plymouth Wagon
- 1963 Dodge 1/2-ton Pickup
- 1962 Chevrolet 1/2-ton Pickup

Come In Today ... We Have the Car You Are Looking For

TOWE MOTOR COMPANY, INC.
201-203 SOUTH ST. - Rt. 100 - HERTFORD, N. C.



Harvey Shank is out to convert the world.

Meet Harvey Shank, Comfort Conditioning Contractor. Harvey's motto is "electric heat in every home" and he's out to install it wherever he can. He knows more about the benefits of flameless electric heat than anybody. That it's cleaner. Quiet. Comfortable. Controllable. And he knows how easy it is to convert to electric heat, too. Installation usually takes less than a week. And it won't disrupt your home or leave it in shambles. Why don't you give your VEPCO-authorized Comfort Conditioning Contractor a call? He's out to convert you.

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND HOME COMPANY