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**Speaking Finals
Set For April 6**

Judges for North Carolina's 1951 pasture speaking contest were announced this week by Dr. E. B. Collins, in charge of agronomy for the State College Extension Service.

They are J. H. Hilton, dean of the School of Agriculture at State College; L. Y. Ballentine, State commissioner of agriculture; A. I. Teachey, State supervisor of vocational education; E. B. Garrett, State soil conservationist; D. S. Weaver, director of the Extension Service at State College.

The contest finals will be held at 2 p. m., April 6 in the State College Y. M. C. A. auditorium. The contest, open to all white high school students, is sponsored each year by the N. C. Bankers' Association in cooperation with State agricultural agencies. A separate contest will be held for Negro students. Subject for this year's contest is "Green Pastures — Their Place in the Economy of North Carolina."

The State winner will receive \$400 in savings bonds and will be the guest of the association at its three-day convention at Pinehurst.

Second prize is \$100 in savings bonds and third prize is \$50 in savings bonds. Regional winners in 10 districts will be awarded \$50 in savings bonds, while second place speakers will receive \$25 bonds.

The American Red Cross during the coming year will attempt to recruit and train an additional 250,000 nurse's aides to help in hospitals and clinics and as a reserve for service which might be needed in shelters and emergency stations in connection with the nation's civil defense preparation.

Weekly Legislative Summary

ACTIONS OF THE 1951 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By the Institute of Government

(Note: This is the ninth of a series of weekly summaries of the work of the North Carolina General Assembly of 1951. It is confined to discussions of matters of general interest and major importance.)

This week the legislators spent a day at the marine base at Camp Lejeune; next Wednesday they will visit Cherry Point. To get home by April 14, and both presiding officers have said that this is possible, they will have to hustle in the 29 legislative days remaining. Already the calendars show a backlog of postponed bills, and the rate of introduction is on an increase. For the first time this session the houses failed several times this week to agree and sent bills to conference. Hotel expenses are mounting, and pay stops on April 2. Frayed nerves and deflated pocket books signal the beginning of a concentrated effort to finish the job; night and afternoon sessions are not far off.

Reapportionment of Legislative Representation — Tentative 1950 census figures setting North Carolina's population at 4,052,027 are the basis for bills introduced on Tuesday for the purpose of reapportioning representation in the General Assembly. SB 303 calls for increasing the number of senatorial districts from 33 to 38, giving 12 districts 2 senators each. Forsyth, Guilford, and Mecklenburg would remain districts by themselves, but each would get 2 senators rather than 1. HB 526 designed to reapportion the 120 House seats would make less drastic changes; representation would remain as it now is except that the second representatives now allotted both Cabarrus and Pitt would be transferred to Alamance and Rockingham. Rep. Blackwell's HB 574, introduced Friday, proposes amending the Constitution to increase the number of senators to 60 and the number of representatives to 130, retaining the present system of apportionment. While it is too early to comment on the Blackwell proposal, the other bills in their present form, like those designed to realign the Congressional districts, seem to stand little chance of passage.

City Streets—Ald to city streets

In the form of the Powell bill (SB 120) seems to be in the home stretch. After receiving approval from the House appropriations committee on Tuesday by a narrow 24-22 vote, it went to the House floor on Friday, and its proponents fought off several amendments before securing passage on second reading by a substantial margin. Third reading is scheduled for Monday night and passage at that time with subsequent concurrence by the Senate in two clarifying amendments seems assured.

Alcoholic Beverages — The last substantial hope for a state-wide liquor referendum before 1953 perished in the House last Tuesday when 51 representatives recorded themselves as opposed to a motion to override an unfavorable committee report and place HB 186 calling for an all-or-nothing election on the House calendar. Although referendum advocates gained a few votes over the 1949 count, the most that could be claimed was a moral victory in forcing the representatives to take a stand on the issue. With that issue settled for the time being, two other referendum bills were methodically killed by a Senate committee and a bill authorizing an ABC store referendum in Winston-Salem passed the House on Thursday by a 58-37 vote. Meanwhile a bill was introduced in the Senate calling for a similar vote in the city of Greensboro. Both city bills are scheduled for a public hearing next Tuesday afternoon before the Senate propositions and grievances committee. After delaying for almost 2 months, the similar House committee gave an unfavorable report to Rep. Atkin's bill designed to reduce from 1 gal. to 1 quart the amount of liquor which may be transported into a dry county or into N. C. from out of state. Identical bills designed to shift the responsibility for liquor law enforcement from the county to the state level were introduced in both houses on Friday. They repeal the provision requiring county ABC boards to spend from 5 to 10 percent of their profits to hire local enforcement officers, authorize the State ABC Board to establish an alcoholic control department with a chief and at least 100 officers with statewide powers, and require the county ABC boards to pay 10 percent of their profits into a state enforcement fund.

Highways — The thorny problem of truck transportation on the public highways played a large part in the General Assembly's work this week. The Tuesday hearing before the Senate roads committee on the Allsbrook bill (SB 183) to reduce maximum truck weights set in 1949 saw considerable debate before the measure was finally turned over to a subcommittee. Earlier, the Senate received SB 297 tightening the tax provision on trucks found loaded beyond their licensed weights. The House roads committee took only two days to report favorably on HB 540 reducing from 45 to 40 MPH the maximum speed for trucks on the open highway, and received 2 bills apparently containing recommendations of highway and planning study reports. HB 571 would authorize the Highway Commission to landscape highways and build and maintain roadside parks, while HB 569 would permit municipalities and the Commission, acting separately or together, to plan and build through traffic or "limited access" highways in congested areas.

State Taxation — Finance committee action this week indicates that this General Assembly continues to think that new revenues are unnecessary. Following a public hearing on Thursday, the committee disapproved the amendment to the Revenue Act designed to raise \$3 million by lifting the maximum sales tax on a single article from \$15 to \$30 and tabled a proposal which would require "fleet owners" to pay a 3 percent sales tax on vehicle lubricants and accessories. On the same day Rep. Umstead, who still thinks that additional

revenues will be required, withdrew an amendment calculated to bring in about \$1 1/2 million annually by increasing the sales tax on wholesale transactions from 1/20 to 1/5 of 1 percent and another which would levy a 3 percent gross receipts tax on movie admissions, and in their place submitted one to raise between \$5 and \$6 million by imposing a 1/2-cent crown tax on soft drinks of 12 ounces or less and 1c on larger containers. A measure which would have decreased state revenues by some \$400,000 by allowing persons with incomes of less than \$5,000 per year to report on "short form" income tax returns also met committee disapproval.

Matters of Interest to Local Officials — County officials did not dispute the value of the farm census to North Carolina farmers at Tuesday's committee hearing on bills relieving the counties of census-taking responsibility, but they emphasized that tax lists cannot do a good job of listing property and count farms at the same time. The county agricultural agencies praised the census but pleaded inability to do the job themselves. The bills have been referred to a joint sub

In Japan, 3,300 women—mostly wives of servicemen, government officials, businessmen, and missionaries — are engaged in American Red Cross volunteer work related to the Korean war.

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