

### INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

**NOTE:** This is the first 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 1961. It is confined to discussion of matters of general interest and major importance.

#### Organization

The 1961 Session of the General Assembly convened at 12 noon, Wednesday, February 8, and proceeded to organize. Lieutenant Governor Cloyd Philpott called the Senate to order, and that body then elected Senator Crew of Halifax as President pro tempore, Veteran S. Ray Byerly of Sanford was re-elected Principal Clerk.

The House was called to order by Secretary of State Thad Eure. The House elected Guilford's Joseph M. Hunt, Jr., as Speaker, and re-elected Mrs. Annie E. Cooper as Principal Clerk. Governor Sanford sat in the House as Speaker Hunt took the oath of office.

The Senate and House presented their usual contrasts on opening day. In the quiet Senate chamber Lieutenant Governor Philpott was extending the courtesies of the Senate at least once to everyone present in particular, and to citizens of some counties in general. In the House, before galleries packed tight enough to make a sardine shudder, the first fight of the session took place within minutes after Speaker Hunt mounted the dias.

#### Legislative Representation

The shadow of reapportionment and redistricting materialized quickly into a floor skirmish in the House on opening day, when Rep. Kerr objected to immediate consideration of a resolution directing the House Committee on Congressional Districts to begin an immediate study of Congressional redistricting and to hold hearings, to the end that a redistricting bill might be drafted. Despite charges and assurances that the resolution amounted to nothing, it represents a departure from customary General Assembly procedures. Under the resolution (which passed without objection the second day of the session) committees could proceed to prepare bills which represent the original thinking of the committees rather than their reactions to specific proposals embodied in bills prepared elsewhere and referred to them.

One resolution and four bills dealing with representation in the General Assembly were introduced in the first few days of the session, SR 4, introduced by Sen. Currie, would have appropriate committees study state senatorial redistricting to the end that a bill on this subject might be drafted. HB 1, introduced by Rep. Kemp, would reapportion House seats according to the 1961 census, with the result that Mecklenburg, Cumberland, Alamance and Onslow Counties would each gain one seat, and Buncombe, Johnston, Cabarrus and Pitt would each lose one seat. HB 39, introduced by Representatives Frink and Cochran, would give each county one Senator, and would increase the House membership to 130, with 30 members instead of the present 20 being apportioned among the larger counties, SB 20, by Sen. Warren, and HB 29, by Rep. Kemp, would provide for automatic reapportionment of House seats after each decennial federal census; the present Constitutional formula would be applied by the Speaker of the House without the necessity of action by the House or the General Assembly. The present Constitutional formula provides that aliens and Indians shall be excluded from the first apportionment. The 1960 census figures did not specify the status of aliens, and so far as aliens are concerned, that happy freedom from the Noble Redman characterized the state has yielded completely to the taxes of death and...

The Budget appropriations bills came in on the second day of the session, following Governor Sanford's budget message. The bills represent the work of the Budget Administration. Governor Sanford expressed appreciation to the previous administration, and generally approved its recommendations, but made it clear that he will return shortly with additional recommendations, particularly in the field of public school appropriations. The Governor stated that he saw no justification for increasing the revenue estimate of the Advisory Budget Commission, and stated that he would recommend specific measures for obtaining the additional revenue which his subsequent appropriations recommendations would require.

The Budget would increase appropriations for current operations by 18 per cent, 75.4 per cent of General Fund appropriations would go to education; this represents a slight percentage decrease, but is an absolute increase of \$70 million. Teacher pay limits would be increased between \$350 and \$450 per annum, with comparable increases for administrative personnel and vocational teachers.

The Joint Appropriations and Finance Committees are experimenting with morning meetings this session. In the past these committees, which together comprise the entire membership of the General Assembly, have met

in the afternoon, leaving the mornings to the other committees. Because the length of the daily General Assembly session is unpredictable, the starting time for the "money committee" meetings has been to be changed frequently, with resultant confusion and inconvenience to persons appearing before them. If the morning session plan does not work satisfactorily, the committees will revert to the afternoon sessions. Senator Stikeleather of Buncombe and Representative Woodard of Wilson are chairmen of the respective Committees on Appropriations; theirs will be the task of leading the committees in determining how much money each state activity shall get. Senator White and Representative Wicker, as chairmen of the Committees on Finance, will have the task of finding the money for their Appropriations colleagues to spend.

#### Small Loans

Three bills concerning the small loan business are now before the General Assembly. SB 9 freezes small loan company applications under the N. C. Small Loans Act for 90 days in

order to prevent persons from getting in under the wire via a "grandfather" clause. SB 9 has passed the Senate and is pending before the House Committee on Banks and Banking. Also before the House are HB 15 and HB 17. HB 17, entitled "North Carolina Consumer Finance Act," the Banking Commission's bill, proposes that the Banking Commissioner be given powerful licensing authority as a primary means of regulating the small loans business. The applicant must show convenience and advantage to the community of his proposed activity, character such as to warrant the belief that the business will be operated lawfully and fairly, and \$25,000 loanable assets available at the specified business location. Not more than one place of business may be operated under the same license, but more than one license may be issued to the same person. The Commissioner's powers under the N. C. Small Loans Act to suspend and revoke rights to do business, make investigations and bring actions on the relation of the State are preserved in the new legislation. Loans of less than \$900 where more than 6 per cent interest is charged would come within the scope of HB 17. Charges up to \$22 on the first \$100 would be allowed. A lender would not be allowed to make loans to the same person from separate offices and

would have to furnish the borrower a written statement of charges for the loan. Detailed insurance provisions are in the bill. HB 15 introduced by Rep. Braswell of Wayne, and also entitled the North Carolina Consumer Finance Act, differs from the Commission's bill in that it would regulate loans of less than \$500, would allow up to \$25 per annum for the first \$100 in charges, and would allow the lender to make separate loans to the same borrower from different offices provided the office trade areas do not overlap. Both HB 15 and HB 17 contain a grandfather clause limited to those presently doing business and having \$25,000 loanable assets available at each business location.

It appears that this year, as in 1959, the General Assembly will go on the road. It has already accepted an invitation to meet at Memorial Coliseum in Winston-Salem on April 19, and it has been invited to Greensboro on Feb. 28. Some Democrats, recalling the vote in Forsyth and Guilford in the November elections, suggested that members might need permission from their county Democratic Committees before venturing into enemy territory.

for edible vegetable oils and protein feeds, says USDA

#### STRICTLY FRESH

The fellow next door has had 50 pounds of muscle-building equipment mailed to him every week for the past year. We haven't noticed much of a change in our neighbor, but we now have the world's most perfectly developed mailman.



Snowflakes would be lovely if they weren't so shovely.

The chap who tore the first telephone directory in half was probably the father of a teenage daughter.

We work for a bigot. He thinks that words can be spelled only one way.

Soybeans crushing are being stimulated by strong demands

Electrical engineers say that if your farm was wired before 1940, you can be sure it is underwired.

## Starting Thursday EVERYTHING MUST GO INCLUDING NEW SPRING SHOES

With every pair of shoes purchased at our regular low price you may receive another pair of equal value at 1/2 price.

Shoes for the Entire Family Good Sizes, Good Widths

## Mac's Self-Service Shoe Store

401 EAST SUTTLE ST.

SHELBY, N. C.

STORE OPEN FROM 9 A. M. TO 9 P. M.  
PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

# Continuing With Added Values!

# Belk's Storewide CLEARANCE

Home of Better Values

TREMENDOUS SAVINGS FOR ALL THE FAMILY

## Fabrics Bargains



SHORT LENGTH  
Cotton  
PRINTS  
29c - 39c quality

5 yds. for \$1.00

Cotton  
PRINTS  
values to 49c

29c yd.

Suiting  
Printed Taffeta  
& Faille  
\$1.00 quality

39c yd.

COTTON & RAYON

Remnants

10c & 19c each

## 2 BIG 2 Rummage Tables

As Marked

# 10c to \$1

- LADIES DRESSES
- BRASSIERES
- BOYS SHIRTS

- BOYS' SWEATERS
- GARTER BELTS
- INFANT WEAR

MANY, MANY OTHER VALUES

### Little Boys' SPORT COATS

Sizes 6-14

50c

### Odd Lot Boys & Men's SPORT COATS

50c

### Boys' RAIN HATS

38c each

### Boys' UNDERSHIRTS & BROADCLOTH SHORTS

29c each

### Ladies And Children's SHOES

Values to \$7.99

Several big tables brand new shoes

29c

69c

\$1

\$2 pr.

### BOYS' SPORT SHIRTS

- Knit ● Flannel
- Broadcloths
- Sizes 8-18
- Were to \$2.99

\$1.00

### GROUP BOYS' DRESS PANTS

Were to \$5.99

\$1.88

### MEN'S DRESS SHOES

Values to \$9.95

\$3.88

### MEN'S CORDUROY DRESS PANTS

\$3.88

## Men's Dress Pants

Big assortment sizes & colors—Values to \$12.99

# \$4.99

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