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Roses' Share In Employees' Profit Plan

Manager P. H. Wilson of the local Rose's Stores, Inc., announced that some 1,600 members of the Rose organization shared in the 1964 Company contribution to the Employees' Profit Sharing Trust. The contribution, \$871,000, was the largest of the twenty-one consecutive annual payments made by Rose's since the Profit Sharing Plan was started in 1944.

Manager Wilson handed statements of their personal accounts to local participants, showing how each shared in the Company's 1964 profits and what each had accumulated. He pointed out that a typical participant in the Plan (a saleslady in one of the stores) who had shared in every one of the twenty-one Company contributions now has a balance in her account equal to two and three-fourths times her 1964 earnings and that in 1964 alone, the total credits to her account were equivalent to more than 26% of her 1964 earnings.

Mr. Wilson advised that Central Carolina Bank & Trust Company, Trustee of the Rose's Profit Sharing Trust, reports that the Fund now totals over \$7,770,000 and holds \$2,320,000 of U. S. Government Bonds, \$1,340,000 of Corporate Bonds, \$322,000 of Common Stocks and \$890,000 of other assets.

Canipe Completes Mechanic's Course

FORT KNOX, KY. (AP)—PFC Forney E. Canipe, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Canipe, 208 E. Virginia Ave., Bessemer City, N. C., completed an armor track vehicle mechanic course at the Army Armor Center, Fort Knox, Ky., May 21.

During the seven-week course Canipe received instruction in the maintenance of engines, power trains and chassis units used in wheeled and tracked vehicles.

He entered the Army in December 1962 and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C.

SOCIAL SECURITY Questions and Answers

Q—I started thinking about retirement the other day but haven't yet made up my mind. I am 69 and operate a 3-man barber shop. If I do retire, how much will I get from social security and when should I file my claim?

A—You should visit the social security office the first chance you get. The people there will estimate your benefit amount and they will also help you to file your claim. It is a good idea to file now and get your claim approved. Then you can be sure of the amount before you retire.

Q—I am a self-employed farmer, age 67, and earned \$2,940 last year on the farm. My wife is 66. Can I get any social security for last year? If so, how do I go about filing for it?

A—There is a possibility that some benefits may be payable depending on the work you did last year and the amount of monthly benefits for which you and your wife are eligible. Get in touch with your social security office for the complete story and to file a claim. If you and your wife have proof of your ages, take it with you when you go to the social security office.

Q—I will be 65 next month and I expect to continue working at my present job until the end of this year. Can I apply for my social security benefits now even though I am not retiring right away?

A—Yes, you may apply right away. In fact, it is recommended that all workers apply for benefits at age 65 whether or not they plan to retire. There's always a chance that some benefits will be payable even though you are still working. In addition, it's to your advantage to have your benefits already approved so that when you do retire the payments can begin with no delay at all.

Higher Education Policy Blankets Out All Other Legislative News

NOTE: This is the fifteenth 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.

A legislative week that started slowly and was but slightly enlivened by House consideration of the auto inspection bill, ended on a note of ferment with Governor Moore's announcement Thursday that the accreditation of the State-supported colleges and universities is threatened by the Speaker-ban law. This issue which at times has seemed likely to remain dormant throughout the session has now been revitalized. No bill to modify or repeal the law has yet been introduced, however.

At week's end issues of higher education policy all but blanketed out other legislative news. Late Wednesday the Joint Committees on Higher Education cast their ballots for UNC trustees; their nominations were approved by Joint action of the two houses on Friday. Thursday brought the introduction of an administration-backed bill to revamp the State Board of Higher Education, sponsored by Senators Scott and Morgan and by Rep. McMillan of Rotenon (SB 459—HB 965). The bill would eliminate the present 9-member Board, to be replaced on July 1st, by a 15-member body. The present detailed budgetary review powers would be abridged to a review of institutional budget requests only to determine their "compatibility..." with the assigned functions of the respective institutions. Governor Moore would appoint a majority of the new board members and representation would also be given to the various State-supported colleges on a rotating basis and to the UNC trustees. Currently the board is composed entirely of citizen members.

Domestic Relations
The North Carolina General Assembly first authorized absolute divorce on grounds of separation of the parties in 1907; the period of separation required was ten years. During the last 58 years, our elected representatives have gradually reduced the period of separation required—in 1921 from ten to five years—in 1933 from five to two years—and in 1965 from two years to one year. HB 480, passed and ratified this week, provides for absolute divorce if the "husband and wife have lived separate and apart for one year." Previous legislative efforts to reduce requirements for divorce have been controversial and emotional. HB 480 passed both houses with surprisingly little controversy. Seventeen other states and the District of Columbia recognize separation as grounds for divorce in periods of time varying from 18 months (Maryland) to ten years (Rhode Island). One state requires 7 years (Texas); six states require 5 years (Arizona, District of Columbia, Idaho, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Wyoming); five states require 3 years (Arkansas, Delaware, Nevada, Puerto Rico, Vermont); and four states require 2 years (Louisiana, New Hampshire, Virginia, Wyoming). Thus North Carolina emerges as the state allowing absolute divorce on grounds of separation for the shortest period—one year. Taken at face value this is deceptive, however, for other states grant easier grounds such as mental cruelty, excessive drinking, and religious difference.

Motor Vehicles
Few areas of legislation affect as many voters of the state as directly as the motor vehicle laws. The sensitivity of the electorate to this body of law and its enforcement on the highways and in the courts generates a great deal of legislative activity each session. Nearly 100 motor vehicle bills have been introduced this year, topping all other subjects of public legislation. Twenty seven of these have already been ratified, including several important parts of Governor Moore's program, noted below. The new laws also number the Good Samaritan Act, warning tickets for minor traffic infractions, blue lights for police vehicles, and an amendment of the law respecting automatic suspension of drivers' license for excessive speeding. About one bill in every ten has been killed by committee or floor action. This year's dead ducks include bills to require annual re-examination for drivers over 65, to double the minimum compulsory auto insurance coverage, to halve the wood hauler license fee, to permit license suspension for two speeding offenses within 12 months, and the anti-necking bill.

In response to rising accident rates Governor Moore has made highway safety a keystone of his legislative program. Several of his proposals have already been enacted into law; others are well along toward final passage. The auto inspection bill was steered through the House by Rep. Eagles and passed on Wednesday of this week. The bill requires annual inspection at State approved stations of brakes, lights, horn, steering mechanism, windshield wipers and directional signals. The House adopted an amendment to jog the memory of each car owner: beginning the month when his inspection is due by reference to the last digit on his license plate. The cost of annual inspection is \$1.50, with the inspecting station to remit 25c to the Department of Motor Vehicles for support of the program. The bill is now in Senate committee awaiting a scheduled public hearing next week.

One of the Governor's proposals already ratified is SB 320, creating the North Carolina Traffic Safety Authority to analyze the traffic safety problem and co-ordinate the safety program. The Governor will serve as chairman of the group, composed of interested department heads and one member from each house of the legislature. Also enacted are SB 258, which will make it unlawful to operate vehicles sold after January 1, 1966, unless equipped with an outside rear-view mirror, and SB 238 which requires vehicles sold after July 1, 1966 to be equipped with anchorage units for rear seat safety belts. If the regulatory pattern for front seat safety belts followed, the 1967 legislature may be expected to consider requiring rear seat belts as standard equipment. The driver education program has been expanded (SB 243 and SB 244) to include all otherwise eligible youths in both public and private schools as well as dropouts, and to require that driver training courses (previously optional) be offered in the public schools. The court reform bill and the \$300 million highway bond issue, though incidental to highway safety, should have a long-range impact in affording safer highways and more uniform enforcement of traffic laws.

Among the still pending administration program bills are SB 307 (HB 616) calling for a \$25,000 appropriation to defray the cost of reflectorizing license plates for 1967; SB 283 (HB 615) seeking the addition of 100 highway patrolmen during the coming biennium; and SB 390 (HB 345) which would establish a highway safety research center at UNC. Another pending measure would require a minimum \$200 fine and mandatory 2-90 day sentence for persons convicted of driving on suspended or revoked licenses (SB 257—HB 565).

The whistle is never blown on new motor vehicle bills. Introduced this past week were SB 452 to require that information on compulsory auto insurance be passed out to motorists along with their registration cards, and HB 916 to place a 3-year driving moratorium on speeders whose licenses have been lifted unless their cars are equipped with 70 mph governors.

Several new introductions of more than routine interest were launched this week. HB 928 introduced by Rep. Speed would explicitly authorize the State Board of Water Resources, acting within the confines of traditional riparian rights doctrines, to adopt regulations establishing reasonable usage of ground or surface waters. HB 978 would reorganize the Board of Conservation and Development, terminating the terms of all present members on June 30, 1965. Another sluz of separate appropriations bills was introduced during the week, seven in all, calling for a total of about \$3 million. Other new bills would make the creation and financing of community colleges, technical institutes and industrial education centers subject to approval by the Governor and Advisory Budget Commission, and would repeal the 1953 "Humber Act", which required the State to contribute to school bus transportation within city limits.

The week proved a dry run for the alcoholic beverage industry, bringing to defeat in the Senate the bill to permit licensed distilleries in North Carolina and an unfavorable committee report for the proposed general enabling law for city ABC elections.

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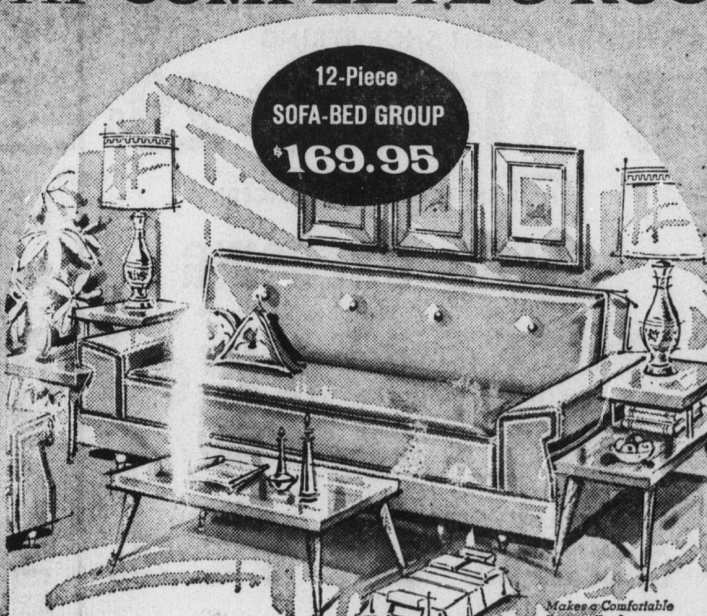
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