

Subject Of Education Hottest Topic In Assembly's Last Weeks

NOTE: This is the sixteenth 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.

The General Assembly devoted the past week largely to grinding out non-controversial bills while awaiting the report of the Appropriations Committee (probably late next week) which will soon plug the Statehouse into its traditionally frenzied end-of-session rush. The latest word on adjournment prospects is an announcement today by legislative leaders of a June 12th target date, Tuesday saw the introduction of the 1000th bill in the House and Friday brought the 500th bill in the Senate. The total number of bills now in the hopper, 1543, while running more than 250 bills behind the rate of introductions in 1963's bumper harvest, is about average for this stage of the session. This General Assembly continues to move bills along to enactment faster than usual; 743 chapters have been ratified to date, by comparison with 651 on the same

EDUCATION

As the 1965 session enters its closing weeks the subject of education remains one of the Assembly's hottest topics. From Governor Moore's opening legislative speaker ban law, educational concerns have been high voltage fare in Raleigh all year. In the field of higher education this General Assembly has already created the fourth campus of the University at Charlotte and resolved the NC State name change squabble. It has also approved the 6th-year masters degree program of graduate training for public school supervisory personnel at East Carolina, Western Carolina, North Carolina College, and Appalachian State, after rejecting a potentially broader proposal along the same lines. Revision of the speaker ban law affecting all State-supported campuses, a dormant legislative issue for most of the session, has been stirred by the recent threat of loss of accreditation and Federal funds; prospects of amendment or repeal appear to have been lessened by today's announcement concerning the early adjournment target date of June 12th. A number of separate appropriations proposals for State-supported

colleges are now being considered by the Appropriations Committee, including the much publicized East Carolina 2-year medical school funding. Other pending money bills involve Gaston, Wilmington, Elizabeth City, East Carolina and Western Carolina Colleges. Of course the general appropriations bill significantly affects all of the State-supported institutions. Suggestions for a higher education capital improvements bond issue, often in the news this session, have never materialized in the absence of gubernatorial support.

Higher education has seen its share of reorganization measures. Now pending in committee are bills to abolish the State Board of Higher Education or, in the alternative (and with the Governor's support), to enlarge the Board's membership and restrict its budget review power over the State-supported colleges. The method of selecting UNC trustees is undergoing thorough scrutiny by this General Assembly. In selecting this year's trustee crop, the Assembly modified its traditional practices to the extent of committing the function of recommending nominees to subcommittees of the House and Senate Committees on University Trustees. More fundamental modifications are under consideration, including a bill introduced this week (SR 476 - HR 999, by Sen. Currie and Rep. Green) to create a study commission on trustee selection, an idea earlier broached in Governor Moore's legislative message. Another bill in the mill to provide for nomination of two trustees jointly by the Senators and House members from the various Senate districts, and to add as ex officio trustees the chairmen of the Assembly's money committees and the two legislative presiding officers. Today a further variant was unveiled in SB 592, introduced by Sen. Matheson. This bill would gradually reduce the membership of the board from 100 to 50, reduce the terms of office from eight to four years beginning in 1971, prohibit members of the General Assembly or their spouses from serving as trustees, require a minimum of five trustees to be of the fair sex, and provide for appointment of one-fifth of the trustees by the Governor.

The field of public education is dominated this session by Governor Moore's program proposals to increase teacher salaries, reduce school class sizes, increase guidance and remedial teachers, restore the teacher continuing contract, remove certain hook fees and strengthen the school lunch program. Of these, only the plan to cut class sizes in grades one to three has received legislative sanction thus far. Most of the other Moore-backed measures, including the key pay-raise item, are still before the Appropriations Committee.

One of this session's principal school enactments is a law designed to adapt the State's school administrative structure to the Federal aid-to-education bill, its major thrust being to authorize counties to operate as a single school district in place of the present system of district school committees operating under a county board of education. Other acts that have already been placed on the statute books include the omnibus school board

appointments bill, a law to make driver training courses mandatory in public high schools, and enabling laws for experimental programs of teacher training in Watauga County and of child development in Chapel Hill in cooperation with Appalachian State and UNC, respectively. Among the pending proposals are bills to restore the teacher continuing contract, to repeal the 1963 "Humber Act" (which provides for State support of municipal school bussing), to require safety belts for school bus drivers, and to authorize a pilot program of public school kindergartens.

The 1963 legislative session saw enactment of a complete statutory charter for our system of community colleges, industrial education centers and technical institutes. The current session is witnessing efforts to enlarge and consolidate these new programs. Bills have been introduced to authorize new IEC's in Onslow and Craven Counties, and a new TI in Duplin. Other pending proposals would clarify the authority of counties to support institutions converted from IEC's to TIs, would make the creation of new institutions in all three categories subject to prior approval of the Governor and Advisory Budget Commission.

Nazarenes Set Church School
A trio of proposals was launched this week which would affect the workings of the General Assembly. On Tuesday Rep. George Wood introduced HB 1000 which would shift forward the convening date of the Assembly from Wednesday after the first Monday in February to the third Wednesday in January. On Wednesday Rep. Harris and others introduced a bill to establish disability and retirement benefits for 5-year members of the General Assembly, and a separate bill seeking an advisory opinion from the Supreme Court as to whether the retirement fund would violate State Constitutional provisions relating to legislative compensation (HB 1013 and

HR 1017). Today Rep. David Britt introduced a bill to create a Legislative Research Commission to conduct legislative studies and manage records, supplies and equipment in the Legislative Building between legislative sessions.

The week saw ratification of the last of a parade of five firemen's bills which were sponsored by Rep. Burden and warmly supported by the North Carolina State Firemen's Association — most significantly, HB 842 which authorizes county commissioners to adopt fire prevention codes affecting territory outside of city limits. Other laws in the package would simplify expansion of fire districts and strengthen the powers of firemen in performing firefighting functions.

This was a real bill-killing week in Raleigh. The casualty toll of bills that died on the floor included fall primary elections proposal (SB 93), the chiropractic amendments (HB 510), and the bill to revise existing requirements for architectural services in preparing building plans (HB 863). Mortal blows were dealt to 11 bills by unfavorable committee reports. Prominent on the list were the billboard control law (HB 757), safe driver license renewals (SB 148), and the proposal to make parole records privileged (HB 811).

Beaver hides were standards of trade during North America's pioneer days.

Four-Bedroom House Plan

Among house plans offered by the Agricultural Extension Service is one for a four-bedroom masonry house, with full basement, which is designed for a sloping site so that part of the basement has full sized windows.

On the first floor, the front door opens from a porch to a small entry at one end of the living room. Traffic from the door to the kitchen and bedrooms is kept to this end of the living room. There is a closet and space for a built-in desk, a music unit, or another closet.

The bathroom has two lavatories, or the space for one could be used for a baby dressing table.

The basement plan contains the fourth bedroom and a second bathroom. There is also space in the basement for a recreation room and a utility room, space for storing canned goods, and a closet for work clothes.

An outside entrance to the basement workroom permits washing up before going upstairs to the Main part of the house. These facilities in the basement leave more space for a roomy kitchen and dining area on the first floor.

Complete working drawings for the plan, number 7151, may be obtained from your county extension office or by writing to the extension agricultural engineer at North Carolina State University at Raleigh. The plan was prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as part of its Co-operative Farm Building Plan Exchange.

The British are great flower lovers. Wherever there is a bit of public or private ground there is usually a flower bed to brighten the area.

Beaver hides were standards of trade during North America's pioneer days.

Phone Expansion At Record High

A record-high total of \$3.7 billion will be spent this year on expanding and modernizing facilities of American Telephone & Telegraph Co., Bryan Houck, local telephone manager said today.

The amount would be \$200 million more than AT & T, the nation's largest utility, spent last year for the same purpose.

In addition, John J. Scanlon, vice president and treasurer, told the New York Society of Security Analysts, the company foresees the need for large construction programs "for an indefinite period."

Scanlon said that new public financing would pay for about \$1 billion of the program. Of the remainder, \$2.3 billion will be financed from depreciation and retained earnings within the company and \$400 million through sale of stock to employees.

Houck said he expects the public financing to be through straight debt issues — that is bonds or notes — rather than by public offerings of stock.

The objective, he said, is to keep the company's debt at about 30 to 40 per cent of its capital structure.

The picture, "Gone With the Wind" premiered 25 years ago. It was produced at a cost of \$4-million, an exceptionally high figure for the times.

Aristophanes wrote the first Greek comedies.

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