

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1949

## MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ISSUES STILL UNDECIDED

(Editorial Correspondence)  
**R**ALIEIGH — When the members of the North Carolina General Assembly first came to Raleigh early in January, they were painfully aware that they should have to wrestle with three major issues—schools, roads, and liquor—plus a confusing assortment of minor and subsidiary problems.

It is a measure of the impact between the irresistible force of the Kerr-Scott "Go Forward" movement and the immovable object of basic conservatism and the conservatism that as of this week, the thirteenth week of the 1949 session, none of the three big issues has been completely solved.

If anything, the lines between Scott and the more conservative members of the General Assembly, especially in the Senate, are even more sharply drawn. There have been defections in the ranks of those who set out originally to trim the Governor's sails—particularly during the period when he held a Senatorial appointment in the palm of his hand—but most of them have been in the House. By and large, the advocates of economy are still in the saddle in the Senate.

The most progress has been made in the liquor issue. The move to hold a statewide referendum, championed vigorously by the Governor, in fulfillment of a campaign pledge, is definitely dead for this session. However, the General Assembly is yet to set a batch of bills for the coming year which would provide city or county ABC elections in a number of N. C. communities. And there remains a considerable sentiment for turning over to the State ABC Board the power to license beer and wine establishments. Some members would go so far as to outlaw the sale of these beverages for consumption on the premises and substitute the package sale principle.

There has been some progress toward a rural road bond issue referendum. The House of Representatives followed to the Governor's wish and passed the State gasoline tax by one cent. But when those bills reached the Senate, they were given unfavorable committee reports and a substitute Senate bill approved which would provide for the \$200,000,000 road bond issue but make the gasoline tax increase contingent upon approval of the bond issue. The Senate went so far as to include in its bill the requirement that the ballots must state that approval of the issue means an immediate increase in the gas tax.

Whether or not the House will accept the Senate version is uncertain. Perhaps there will be a compromise. At any rate, a final decision on this problem is not anticipated here another week or so.

Most explosive issue still before the General Assembly is, of course, schools. It has stirred up bitter battles in committee and on the floor, and there will be other rages before the session ends.

Education forces are striving for two objectives: (1) State financial assistance in building school houses, and (2) higher teacher salaries. An interesting twist of what has developed out of the school issue.

The Senate passed and sent to the House a measure which would provide for a pub-



## How About An 'Oscar' For This Guy?

The demonstration has long been a sign of a man in his quiet, school-teacher's voice speaking about what matters of great importance in the world. It has few rivals and few equals, for it is one of the most powerful weapons of the world's peace-loving people.

During that period the political climate shifted with dizzying rapidity. That was strange time when the Communists were in power in Russia. It was a time when the Soviet-Nazi alliance joined up with the isolationists of the United States as 'imperialist warmongers' determined to stand against the peace was a menace to peace.

What happened here last year was the same thing that happened here during that time. It was a time when the Communist Party in Russia decided that the conclusions of the geneticists were contrary to political doctrine. They began systematically to tear down the whole organization of the genetic scientists and build up their own.

Under pressure some of the achievements of their field were destroyed. In the case of the famous geneticist N. I. Vavilov, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was ordered to expel him from the country in 1940. He died in Siberia in 1943.

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## The Search Goes On

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lie election on the question of issuing \$50,000,000 in bonds for school buildings. The Senate still provides that each county would receive an equal amount—\$500,000—regardless of the number of school children, its accumulated needs, or its ability to pay.

When the House Finance Committee got the bill, it reduced the amount from \$50,000,000 to \$20,000,000, voted to issue the \$30,000,000 "cushion" fund to make up the difference and changed the allocation method. That action caused consternation among the higher teacher salary proponents, for their best hope of getting more money was from using that "reserve fund."

Simultaneously, the Joint Appropriations Committee of the House and Senate, dominated by the school forces, was voting to use \$20,000,000 of the \$30,000,000 reserve fund for higher teacher salaries, furnishing enough money to establish a \$2,200-\$3,100 salary scale for standard certified teachers. This is the scale asked by Governor Scott, who hopes that Federal money will make it possible to increase the amount even further.

The actions of both these committees ran counter to opinion of some House members, including the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Frank Taylor of Wayne County, that the cushion fund should not be spent all but its original purpose—to protect the State appropriation schedule against possible loss of revenue due to a business recession.

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## People's Platform The Plight Of The Landlord

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## Joseph and Stewart Also Rough Road Ahead

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ON this birthday anniversary of 'The Governor' as he is affectionately known to all his friends, 'The Charlotte News' congratulates him as a distinguished publisher and a great public servant.

Entering today upon his 80th year, Governor Cox can look back upon a fine record of accomplishments, some of which he modestly outlines in his exciting autobiography, "Journey Through My Years," published three years ago. When only 28, a rugged youth as a farm boy, he began his

colorful career as a newspaper publisher in Dayton since then his brilliant success as a newspaper executive has enabled him to acquire papers in Springfield, Ohio, and Miami, as well as in many other cities.

Newspaper work, however, has by no means captured all the time of this accomplished American. Elected twice to Congress and three times Governor of Ohio, he made a notable mark in politics. It is hard to believe that almost 30 years have elapsed since Warren G. Harding defeated Governor Cox for the presidency. Little did the voters realize that they were putting in the White House a man who would surround himself with corrupt men. If the electorate had known Harding as history knows him today, Governor Cox would have been President in the era after the First World War.

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