

THOMAS L. ROBINSON - Publisher
J. E. DOWD - General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH - Executive Editor

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Annual Sessions: An Economic Must

IKE a riverbed shifting, Tar Heel political sentiment has been inching behind a proposal for annual legislative sessions for years.

Today there was an outside chance that this opposition was weakening.

The reason: Some Clark backstage politicking by Rep. Dave Clark of neighboring Lincoln County.

Mr. Clark's bill, which would permit Tar Heels to vote on the plan as a constitutional amendment, passed the House 73 to 35 this week.

The measure's fate is now in the hands of the Senate.

There is always the possibility, of course, that annual sessions will add nothing but a little more thunder and lightning to North Carolina's political climate.

Why? For purely economic reasons. The swift, steady growth of the North Carolina budget has made it increasingly difficult for legislators to handle fiscal affairs with any degree of skill in two-year sessions.

Certainly 1955 is a good illustration of this difficulty. Estimates of revenue and expenditures—made two years ago—have been notoriously inaccurate.

Annual sessions aren't new for North Carolina. The state had them in the old days.

But since late in the 19th century (with a few notable exceptions) biennial sessions have been the general rule.

Gulford's Rev. Thomas Turner, one of the General Assembly's leading lights who sprang to Mr. Clark's defense, made an important point Tuesday.

Mr. Turner might have mentioned too that some North Carolina legislators in the 1890's were paid \$20 bills.

On the matter of legislative salaries, Mr. Clark is a little too modest.

He provides that members shall be paid \$15 a day for 75-day first session in the year following their election.

But the principle of an annual session is sound. It is just good business practice to plan work and prepare budgets on a yearly basis.

Government is business—big business. It should be operated with businesslike skill and efficiency.

Industrial waste was suggested by industrialists themselves.

We believe too that Tar Heel industry as a whole is becoming increasingly interested in stream sanitation and in the many problems involved.

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Responsible North Carolina industries recognize their duties and responsibilities in this vital field.

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U. S. Youth Doomed? 'Bunk!' Says A Tar Heel Cop

By JETER L. WILLIAMSON

(Editors' Note: This essay by Greenboro's chief of police won a silver cup at the 1955 Guilford County Fine Arts Festival. He made essentially the same points last year in testimony before a U. S. Senate subcommittee investigating juvenile delinquency.)

WHO has any better reason to lose faith with humanity or any segment thereof than a cop? Strangely enough, however, these men who perhaps witness more of the seamy side of life than any other group of people on earth are the last to heap mass condemnation on the human race, especially on our young people.

In the 18 years I have been a cop I have witnessed time and again sights and incidents which might easily have shaken the faith of many, but over the years a policeman learns to accept more temptation, have more free time and receive less parental guidance.

And in spite of all this they will grow into some of the most successful and brilliant men and women the world has ever known.

SMALL MINORITY The bulk of the figures and statistics we see are obtained from police records systems, court files, probation and penal institutions and the many public agencies concerned with juvenile crime, so called.

It is this deeply embedded lesson in human behavior which makes me fairly bold at the uniformed alarmists who would have us believe that all of the kids of today are headed straight for the penitentiary, the electric chair or the gates of hell.

It has been said that if all the statistics in the world were laid end to end they would still never reach a pretty picture; but this, and this alone, sufficient basis for leading us to believe that all youth is doomed?

Our attention has been so repeatedly focused on this very small minority of our young people that we are overlooking the normal, clean-cut and intelligent youth which go to make up the vast majority.

Believe it or not, to a great number of adults today the words teenager and delinquent are synonymous.

Specialization This is an age of specialization, every profession and occupation has been subdivided into small areas of activity.

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loween? Or any one of dozens of other similar pranks children of the last generation engaged in? If you can conscientiously answer all these negatively you either led a sheltered life or you were not normal.

Today in spite of this sordid, criminal childhood you are citizen of your community. If you must, and weathered it, what possible right do we have to state unequivocally that our children will not? As difficult as it may be, we are forced to admit that they are healthier, sturdier and more intelligent.

Let's again reflect on you or me in Mr. Brown's cherry tree 25 years ago. If we were caught we were carried home and a full report made to father who immediately accompanied us to the court of woodshed justice.

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"Wait! Don't tell him about the birds and the bees." According to this they're absolutely immoral...

made in the proper columns and we wind up with a larceny by a minor. Multiple times it is reported and then again by the increased number of police departments and courts which now keep complete records and it is really seem how this one factor alone can throw the entire picture out of focus.

FOREVER BRANDED Aside from trailing the figures presently, we are simultaneously placing a stumbling block in the pathway of the boy's future. By our records he will be forever branded as a thief.

A boy grabs an apple from a vendor's truck and runs. He is caught. He is not turned over to his parents for disciplinary action, the police are called to take a larceny report, another statistic. At the end of the year the surrounding circumstances are not reckoned with. Tallies are

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Waste Law: No Faint Hearts, Please

THERE was a hint of faintheartedness in the air when Charlotte's City Council discussed plans yesterday to proceed with the industrial waste ordinance June 1.

"If we don't look out," cautioned Councilman Herman A. Brown, "we're going to run a lot of industries out of Charlotte with this ordinance and with the county increasing taxable values we will be losing millions of dollars in payroll."

As to the waste ordinance, Mr. Brown's fears are not likely to be realized.

Surely no industry is going to pack up and leave simply because it is asked to do its part in keeping streams reasonably sanitary and free of harmful materials.

Industrialists affirm that the ordinance have been aware of its implications for five years.

For instance, more than half of America's cities of over 10,000 population operate at least one municipal off-street parking lot.

Other U. S. cities, faced with the same woes, are devising workable remedies.

The time has come for Charlotte to get in step with some of its neighbors.

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'Don't Peek — It's Sort Of A Surprise'



Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

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Democrats Snafu Monopoly Inquiry

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With Salk, Ike, Willie Mays And Marilyn, Life's A Treat

LIBSON, Portugal I AM SORE about this piece will be pure Pollyanna, so stone me if you must.

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hare fact that he had been convicted of larceny. Certainly I find no condone such action, but should this mistake of an immature boy still be the trail of an honest man?

I had legal right to remove this record from the file and destroy it, but I did write a letter calling attention to the fact that in the 22 years following the occurrence his record was clean and expressing the thoughts that although I am sure if we give consideration than his crime mistake as a child.

STATISTICS? Another influencing factor which is not given proper consideration is a breakdown of figures of cases as compared with individuals. Frequently a youngster apprehended burglarizing a store or stealing an automobile will add to several other similar cases.

Before we condemn today's youth, let's take stock of our lives. The statistics which we are using to the standards our children have set for us. Let's realize that the statistics which we are using to the standards our children have set for us.

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