

Student Legislature To Meet Nov. 15-18

BILL PRESTON JR.
Staff Correspondent

KNOXVILLE — More than 100 students from approximately 20 Tennessee Colleges and universities will meet in Nashville Nov. 15-18 for the second annual session of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature.

"WE EXPECT to have the largest number of college students ever assembled in the history of Tennessee for the express purpose of giving voice to the constructive opinions of Tennessee's college population regarding their state government," said Charles W. Bone, Gallatin, Tenn., governor of the 1967 TISL.

Bone, a graduate of Vanderbilt University and a first-year law student at the University of Tennessee, said it was organ-

ized last year to give college students the opportunity to study the legislative process by introducing bills and resolutions written by the college students with the assistance of political science professors, attorneys and local legislators.

"WE FOUND that the issues we discussed last year — and those we anticipate discussing this year — constitute major problems which concern the state in general and the general assembly in particular," Bone said.

Legislation debated and passed by the TISL last year included:

- A resolution requiring all meetings of legislative bodies and state agencies to be open to the press and public.

- An act to repeal the state law which prohibited teaching the theory of evolution in public schools. The state legislator repealed the law this year.

- A closed primary election law which would require individuals to declare their party affiliation and vote only in their own party's elections.

- The repeal of Tennessee's law prohibiting expenditures of more than \$25,000 in any state wide political campaign, while requiring candidates to submit a detailed report of all contributions made to their campaigns.

"We think the effectiveness of our organization can be measured by the number of issues we discussed last year which have since been considered by the state legislature," Bone said.

Bone stressed that the TISL is a non-partisan group, and supported by no adult political organization in any way. The student-representatives are selected by their college student governments on the basis of their interest in Tennessee government.

The three-day session will be held in the legislative chambers of the State Capitol in Nashville.



—STAFF PHOTO BY DALE ERNBERGER

Proposed Laws Discussed

Four members of the Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature discuss several of the bills they presented to the mock legislature during its three-day session at the state capitol. The student legislators are, from left, Russell King, University of Chattanooga, Miss Judy Brown, Tennessee Technological University, Miss Pat Hyder, Peabody College, and John Benson, Vanderbilt University.

Mock Legislature Legalizes Abortions; Sets Provisions

By BILL PRESTON JR.

The Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature passed a bill yesterday legalizing clinical abortion if pregnancy results from rape or incest, or if the mother or child's health is endangered.

The TISL senate passed the bill by an 11 to 1 vote, and the house passed the measure during a late night session. The bill is expected to be signed into TISL law today by Gov. Charles W. Bone, a first-year law student at the University of Tennessee.

THE BILL IS designed to revise sections 39-301 and 39-302 of the Tennessee Code Annotated.

In other action, the TISL considered bills and resolutions including:

- Changing the state constitution to give the governor authority to utilize the Tennessee National Guard without request-

ing legislative approval for four days.

- Establishing the office of lieutenant governor as a popularly elective office, rather than being selected as speaker of the state senate.

- Establishing a statewide system of classified services which would establish a civic service-type merit-system in state jobs with the exception of specifically appointive or elective positions.

- A standard minimum speed laws for all Interstate and defense highways.

- A uniform traffic light system.

Gov. Buford Ellington and Nashville attorney businessman John J. Hooker Jr., Ellington's opponent for the 1966 Democratic gubernatorial nomination, addressed both houses of the student legislature yesterday.

Ellington praised the group for their interest in the legis-

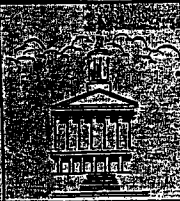
lative process in state government and told the students that he "has confidence in youth."

"THE INTEREST I have found on college campuses across the state is the ability to think."

Hooker, who received 47% of the vote for governor last year, told the group to continue their efforts to change the inequities in state government.

"When you first say something that is intelligent and penetrating, it may not immediately reach the ears of those in power. But if you keep saying it, it will eventually reach their ears, particularly when it makes sense," Hooker said.

TISL's three-day session at the state capitol will conclude tomorrow with the signing of the bills passed by the mock-legislature, and the election of officers for the 1967-68 session.



CAPITOL SPOTLIGHT

By Bill Kovach



Youngsters Show the Way To Better Government

Nov 27, 1966

THERE ARE TIMES when many of us wish there were more whimsical thinking in the Biblical suggestion to the effect that a little child shall lead.

One of those times came last week in this case it was a group of college students rather than a little child. But, these college students exhibited the kind of leadership and progressive thinking Tennessee needs, but is not likely to get in the next few years.

Seventy-five students, representing 12 colleges and universities, held the first of what they hope to be annual Inter-Collegiate State Legislature.

To Provide Opportunity

The preamble of their constitution, written by Danile Handrickson of Milligan College in Elizabethton, speaks clearly to their purpose:

to provide an opportunity through which all students can be represented and through which they can voice their views concerning Tennessee laws, statutes and issues.

Their accomplishments are such that they ought to be listed. The public can best judge whether the adult legislators measure up to the courage, hopes and ability of their collegiate counterparts.

Meeting at the State Capitol, the college students considered and passed:

- A resolution requiring all meetings of legislative bodies and state agencies be opened to the press and public. Those who recall the attempts of the last General Assembly to hold secret meetings to conduct public business behind closed doors will understand the importance of this resolution.

- Repealed the archaic and absurd law forbidding the teaching of evolution in Tennessee's schools.

- A series of laws establish in closed primary elections

which would require Republicans to declare themselves as such and vote only in their own party's elections and apply the same to the Democrats.

Tennessee is today, as Fred Travis of the Chattanooga Times has pointed out, a "no-party" state simply because Republicans and Democrats intermingle and aid one another in the election of candidates. Party principles mean little and the result is the election of Republican-Democrats and Democratic-Republicans.

- Put an end to the unrealistic law forbidding expenditures of more than \$25,000 in a statewide race. This act also would require detailed and full reporting of campaign contributions by candidates.

- Called for a constitutional revision commission to study and recommend changes in Tennessee's 19th Century constitution.

- Passed an auto inspection bill.

- Established a board of higher education to coordinate the budget, curriculum and activities of all of Tennessee's



Charles Bone

Sets practical goals

colleges and universities to cut down costly competition and duplication in the state's system of higher education.

Got in a Plug

At the end, getting in a plug for themselves, the students urged that the voting age be reduced from 21 to 19 years.

If their activities in the mock legislature are any example of the intelligence and ability of 19-year-olds, this might be a good move. They did more to add a note of progress to Tennessee's legislative process in two days than the older generation has been able to do in two years.

Lest some pragmatist, who doesn't believe in trying for the best but will settle for the possible, suggests these young people were rash and moved in areas with which they are unfamiliar, it should be pointed out:

They declined to even discuss the tax revenue and problems facing the state because, as Charles Bone of Vanderbilt explained, "we realized it would require more time, study and knowledge than we could muster."

They dealt with those things with which they were familiar. Freedom of information, higher education, death on the highways, an end to hypocrisy in politics, they understood and they marked for correction.

At the end of their two days, during which they held committee meetings that ran until 3 a.m. and worked the legislative process from A to Z, the students elected Charles Bone their governor.

Bone says the group will function during the year carrying out studies of problems facing Tennessee and recommending solutions.

More importantly, these people have decided to seek introduction and lobby for passage in the 1967 General Assembly for some of the measures they passed themselves.

The 1967 General Assembly could do far more than look to these youngsters for a little help next year.