



## Lobbyist Can't Breathe

# It's Really Crowded at Capitol

By CHARLES CRAVEN.

A lobbyist can hardly breathe in the place.

But that's the only satisfactory feature to the crowded conditions in the stately old Capitol.

It's been inadequate as a functional seat of government for years. Lawmakers have fought their legislative battles there for years without benefit of a cloakroom, lounge or a place to duel.

You can enter the building now and find the House and Senate chambers a jumble of legislators, newspaper men, pages, secretaries

and assorted onlookers—all nearly elbow-to-elbow and sitting on everything with a flat surface.

### Boxcar Likeness.

Whenever the Governor addresses a joint session, it's like being in a boxcar loaded with steers — what with the heavy horned TV cameras, wires, lights and beret-wearing handlers. The air is befouled by the fog of many breaths. A cough breaks on the ears like scattered billiard balls.

Mrs. Annie Cooper, the principal clerk of the House, can cite for you the actual conditions which

cry for legislative halls of greater capacities.

There are 170 legislators holding forth in the Capitol—120 representatives and 50 senators. In the House some 108 aides to the representatives will be employed. The Senate employes will be only a few less.

These aides—secretaries, clerks, etc.—have had to scatter all over Capitol Square to find places to work after the day's sessions. At present, some 30 House committee clerks have been provided working space in a building adjacent

to the Art Museum. This doesn't nearly solve the problem of space.

Concerning larger, more adequate facilities, Mrs. Cooper said, "I think the members of the Legislature deserve it . . . There isn't a State Department head who could work under such conditions that members of the General Assembly have to work under."

### Young Pages.

Mrs. Cooper sympathizes particularly with the young pages. "There are 45 assigned to the House and the same number to the Senate," she said. "And they



work in shifts of 15. They have no place to study, no recreational facilities, hardly adequate rest rooms. They are stacked up in corners and in the aisles. There should be a place for them to stay where they can be found when the members want them instead of being stacked up everywhere."

There are only six public toilets in the Capitol. This makes a highly inadequate situation on days when there are hundreds of visitors to the Legislative halls.

The press, radio and TV were favored with a temporary well-lighted, comfortable glass house set amidst the Doric architectural splendor of the east portico. There are those who consider the structure a blemish—and in bad practice. They fear permanency for such structures. The press facility was dubbed the "Buffalo Nose."

The proposal for a four and a half million dollar legislative building has many backers. But a tight budget and economy mindedness among the lawmakers might shelve the proposal. So with even legislator comfort at stake—the issue is expected to be a divided one.

But if the measure isn't approved, many aesthetically inclined Tar Heels feel they will be provoked by additional "Buffalo Noses" stuck on the graceful but small Capitol.

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