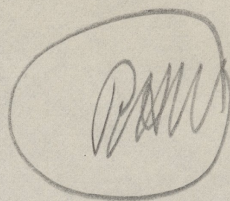


Chapel - February 10, 1931

-- President Wright



Scripture Lesson: 117th Psalm

Government in the United States and in each state in the Union is divided under three general heads--Legislative, Judicial, and Executive. These three divisions are supposed to be, in a large measure, each one separated from the others. The Administrative ends of government ^{gather} ~~handle~~ a great number of facts; ~~together with~~ and through the Chief Executive, the President if ^{the} a Federal Government and the Governor if state, these facts are transmitted to the lawmaking body. The President of the United States has the right and power to veto any act of Congress, but Congress has power to over-ride the President's veto. In quite a number of states the same condition exists; the Governor has the power of vetoing, but the law making body has power to over-ride the veto. In North Carolina the Governor does not have the power of veto. Whatever laws are passed and ratified by the lawmaking body are laws whether made with the approval of the Executive or not. Once made, it becomes the duty of the Executive to enforce those laws. When a question as to whether or not a given law has been violated arises it is taken to the Judiciary department through our courts. The case is tried and the decision of the court is then binding and it is the duty of the Executive to enforce the decision.

There has been, always, a certain amount of courtesy, you might call it, existing between these three departments of government. The Legislative department in the nation, and in our state, is made up of people who are representatives of the people. The Executive department has the right to appear before the Legislative department at any time and deliver a special

message to the Legislative department of government, dealing with any particular question before them, and then the duty of the Executive department has been performed. Usually that ends it. I don't mean that there are not conferences, conferences between the Committees of the lawmaking department and the Executive. Last evening we had an experience in North Carolina that is new. I will not say it is the first time it has ever happened in the Nation, I don't know about that, but it is something unusual, and for that reason I wanted to call your attention to it. I am neither condemning nor approving it; simply trying to give you the facts. It is a question of changing our state legislation with reference to highways in North Carolina. The Governor recommended that it be changed and be more centralized in order that the roads may become a general state system of roads and that the State Highway Commission will take over maintenance of county highways as well as those designated as state highways with a view of saving approximately six million dollars of taxes to the people of the state that they are now paying, primarily on real property, and convert that tax to the gasoline tax. In his recommendation, the gasoline tax to be increased one cent on the gallon, bringing it up to a six cent tax. That measure was to be discussed in the legislative session last night. The unusual thing is that the Governor for nearly three quarters of an hour went on the radio and talked to the people about this particular measure and requested that we, the people, if we agree with him communicate with our Senators and Representatives. So far as I know, this is the first time in the history of any state, certainly so far as I know, the first time in the history of North Carolina that the Governor has made an appeal to the people to influence their representatives. Of course, the Governor has a right to appeal to the people any time he wishes, but after an election has been held and the people have selected their representatives it is a little unusual for the Governor to go back to the

people and ask them to influence the people whom they have selected to represent them in the lawmaking body.

It is an unusual situation.