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Mississippi House Downs Local Option

JACKSON, Miss. (UPI) — Mississippi — where it is estimated that more than 25 million dollars is spent annually on 900,000 gallons of liquor and wine — today remained the only legally dry state in the nation.

The House of Representatives Wednesday night defeated, by a vote of 75-60, a Senate-approved local option bill and ended a serious threat to legal prohibition.

The vote followed more than six hours of debate in which backers of the bill to end prohibition pointed out that liquor flows freely in many areas of the

state and urged the local option law as a means of controlling liquor sales.

But State Rep. Kelly Hammond said the threat of the bill's passage made this "the darkest hour in the state of Mississippi. It would turn loose the flood gates of hell."

Hammond urged the House not to "prostitute the process of democracy in front of these young page boys."

Local self-government, which is constantly being urged by Southern politicians, was stressed by supporters of the measure that have permitted counties to vote themselves out from under prohibition.

But Rep. Jesse Chaffin charged that the bill was recommended by "two-bit politicians."

Li. Ron Robinson Is One Of Escorts

Li. Ronald L. Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Robinson of 428 Cross St., has been selected as one of the escorts for the princesses in the Washington, D.C. cherry festival. Robinson is currently stationed at Fort Myer, Arlington, Va.

Li. Robinson was one of the 53 young service men to be selected as military escorts. Names are submitted from each branch of the service, before the final selection is made.

Ron, a graduate of Decatur high school, and a former employee of the Decatur Democrat Co., will have to wear a special uniform for the affair. The cherry blossom festival lasts ten days, starting April 4, and running through the 10th.

The princesses will represent each of the 50 states, and each U.S. possession. The escorts will be expected to take them to all the formal affairs of the festival, including the special formal dances. All of the affairs are attended by invitation only, and the top people of Washington annually attend. Li. Robinson even had to attend a special class on formal Washington manners for these affairs.

A few of the events planned for the festival are: briefing of escorts, official opening at the Tidal Basin, state society dance, luncheon and fashion show, tea at the Japanese embassy, official cruise and buffet, festival ball, and the selection of a queen. Mrs. Eisenhower will crown the queen.

Walter Brennan and his television family from the "Real McCoys" program will lead one of the parades, and Ron is looking forward to a chance to meet Brennan, as well as many of the other dignitaries present. Robinson has hopes of visiting Decatur around Easter, and many of his friends will be interested in his reactions to these affairs.

Confesses Passing Over 60 Bad Checks

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (UPI) — Illinois police arrested Borj T. Lewis, 46, West Terre Haute, Ind., Wednesday and said he admitted passing more than 60 bad checks here during the past two years.

Assistant Police Chief Willard Kelly said authorities had been searching since 1958 for Lewis, who used about 10 aliases.

Lewis was picked up Wednesday morning as he climbed into a car stolen in Michigan City, Ind.

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