

SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS



The U. S. Department of Agriculture's proposed rule to increase or terminate the national marketing quota and acreage allotment for flue-cured tobacco for the 1974-1975 marketing year has caused great consternation among North Carolina farmers.

I have advised Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz that I am unalterably opposed to any change in our tobacco program and believe that any suspension of flue-cured tobacco quotas would lead to an economic disaster.

The changes being considered by the department ignore the essential fact that the level of prices is based upon the quota system and is necessary in order for farmers to produce this commodity. Farmers are already suffering from skyrocketing costs for fuel and fertilizer, and have enough problems without the additional worry over the future of the acreage-poundage tobacco control program.

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There is considerable speculation that the Department is threatening to terminate national marketing and acreage allotment for flue-cured tobacco in the hope of getting agreement to increase the quota. Some segments of the tobacco industry have been advocating an increase in the quota for 1974. Such action, however, would be a serious mistake and could have a far-reaching effect upon the entire tobacco industry.

The 1974 marketing quota for flue-cured tobacco was set last July at 1,179 million pounds, the same as in 1973, and then percent above 1972. It appears though that there may be a carry over of about 50 million pounds from 1973 and that this would provide an effective quota of about 1,200 million pounds for 1974. The law permits an excess of 10 percent of quotas to be marketed without penalty.

So there is already the possibility of marketings of 1,347 million pounds in 1974 under the existing quota. If there is another ten percent increase in the quota, that would add the possibility of 118 million pounds of marketings for a grand total of 1,465 million pounds in 1974. It is this latter ten percent increase in the quota that could have severe consequences if it is approved by the Department.

Marketings of this amount would greatly depress tobacco prices. This comes at a time when interest rates, taxes, and wages are jumping to all-time highs. Furthermore, there is no indication that inflation will abate. Indeed, the prices of farming machinery, equipment, and supplies are increasing faster than farmers can finance them.

Farmers and other interested persons should transmit their views on this vital issue to the Director, Tobacco and Peanut Division, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250, no later than January 10.

The tobacco program has meant much to North Carolina and the 115,000 quota and allotment holders in our State. The program in its present form has widespread support. I am of

MIRROR MORSELS

We attract hearts by the qualities we display; we retain them by the qualities we possess.—Suard.

Common sense does not ask an impossible chessboard, but takes the one before it and plays the game.—Wendell Phillips.

We cannot conquer fate and necessity, but we can yield to them in such a manner as to be greater than if we could.—Landor.

Music, in the best sense, does not require novelty; nay, the older it is, and the more we are accustomed to it, the greater its effect.—Goethe.

Let the motive be in the deed and not in the event. Be not one whose motive for action is the hope of reward.—Kreeshna.

Darkness is fled. Now flowers unfold their beauties to the sun, and blushing, kiss the beam he sends to wake them.—Sheridan.

The reason why so few marriages are happy is because young ladies spend their time in making nets, not in making cages.—Swift.

Man is to man all kinds of beasts; a fawning dog, a roaring lion; a thieving fox, a robbing wolf, a dissembling crocodile, a treacherous decoy, and a rapacious vulture.—Cowley.

Fortune is a prize to be won. Adventure is the road to it. Chance is what may lurk in the shadows at the roadside.—O. Henry.

Laws are the very bulwarks of liberty; they define every man's rights, and defend the individual liberties of all men.—J. G. Holland.

There are many ways of being frivolous, only one way of being intellectually great; that is honest labor.—Sydney Smith.

No race can prosper until it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling the field, as in writing a poem.

Many of the supposed increasers of knowledge have only given a new name, and often a worse, to what was well known before.—Hare.

I have sped much by land and sea, and mingled with much people, but never yet could find a spot unsummed by human kindness.—Tipper.

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the opinion that it would be tragic if the Secretary of Agriculture seeks to implement any proposal which would weaken or destroy a program that has worked so well and has continuously strengthened rural America.

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