

ROADS TAKE LAND — Good roads are an areas greatest asset but with right-of-ways of 300 feet or more they consume nearly 40 acres of land per mile. Housing in the background shows urban creep over the adjoining cropland.

The Washington Report

By Congressman Walter B. Jones

what they consider the most pressing problems which less than last year's budget. the Congress should admajor concern. It appears yet convinced the large institutions that the economy will improve. Most Wall Street experts cite the large deficits projected for the next four years as the reason for their pessimism.

The major issues facing the Congress upon their return is the passage of several appropriation bills and the consideration of budget cuts proposed by President Reagan. Because the new fiscal year will begin October 1, it is important this Congress proceed with all due speed on these matters.

The legislation considered by the House this week was approval of the ap-Justice, Commerce and Judiciary, and for the Department of Transportation. The combined State, Justice, Commerce

Pork Festival Ticket Sale

Tickets to the 1982 Virginia Pork Festival will go on sale October 1. Tickets are \$12.50 and will be limited to four tickets per person. The sales policy calls for 12,000 tickets to be sold.

Announcement of the sale of tickets points out that tickets will be sold by mail only. Orders postmarked before October 1 will not be honored. Orders will be filled on a first come, first serve basis, based on date of postmark.

The Virginia Pork Festival, Inc., is a non-profit promotional - educational organization dedicated to the promotion of pork and pork products and to the recognition of the swine

and Judiciary budgets for fiscal year 1982 were set at a Congress reconvened on total of \$8.68-billion by the Wednesday, September 8 House. This budget is nearly after more than one month's one billion dollars less than recess. I have enjoyed this the budget for these time travelling around the agencies last year. The District and talking with Department of Tranmany constituents who have sportation appropriations given me some insight as to bill was passed at a \$11.1billion level, over one billion

During the consideration dress. Naturally, the of the Department of problem of inflation and Transportation aphigh interest rates were of propriations, an amendment was approved which the problem of inflation and makes the funding for the high interest rates were of Panama Canal operations. major concern. It appears The Jones Bill, which I that the enactment of sponsored, was approved by President Reagan's budget the Merchant Marine and and tax packages has not Fisheries Committee earlier this year. It retains strict banks and other Wall Street Congressional oversight and controls over the operation of the Canal. Some interests had sought to circumvent those restrictions by inserting more "open-ended" language in the appropriations bill, but this end-around effort was rejected by the full House.

Another amendment

offered by the Committee sought to add \$87-million to the Coast Guard apporpriations. I felt strongly that the Coast Guard apporpriations should be increased because of the additional duties which have been imposed in the last few years on the Coast Guard such as monitoring of the propriation bills for the 200-mile fishing limit off the Departments of State, coast, full-time monitoring of drug traffic, and finally the handling of thousands of refugees, both Cuban and Haitian, that have been pouring into the country. The House did not approve this amendment. However, an amendment was approved later which added \$6million to the Coast Guard appropriations and language was inserted which prevents any reduction in force of civilian Coast Guard personnel below the level existing on October 1st of this year.

Walker PTA To Meet

The D. F. Walker Parent Teachers Organization will hold their first meeting on Sept. 21, at 7:30 P. M.

There will be an open house to all the classrooms immediately after the meeting, with refreshments being served.

Special emphasis is being placed on membership for this meeting. All parents of D. F. Walker schoolchildren are urged to attend.

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Yearly Loss Is Reported

It's hard to imagine with all the land being cleared in Northeastern North Carolina that the United States is losing 3-million acres of cropland a year. This information came from a recent survey of the Soil Conservation Service.

According to Neil Sampson, of the National **Association of Conservation** Districts, "For the first time in history of America, our land and water will soon be strained to meet our economic needs."

Maybe we don't see it so much here in Chowan and Perquimans counties, but nationwide farmland is being gobbled up at a rate of over 8,000 acres per day. Prime farmland, that is land that is well drained and flat, is being lost at a rate of 2,700 acres per day. Where does it go? It goes

to house lots, highways and right-of-ways and industry sites mostly. It's called urban sprawl. About 200,000 acres each year are lost to lakes and reservoirs.

whether or not the government can take prime farmland. In other words, projects such as building highways that use public money must take into consideration the impact on local prime farmland. However, at this point the definition of prime farmland for North Carolina has not been fully decided.

As population increases, it will be necessary to plant more, not less, in the United States. How much land do we have left? According to the SCS Inventory in 1977, we had about 127-million acres left that could be converted, but this land has problems that must be dealt with before it becomes productive. At present, our cropland in the United States is about 413-million

There are many problems nationwide that would prevent agriculture from meeting future demands. Out West, ground water is lowered more and more Gov. Jim Hunt has each year by irrigation. proposed a bill which would Many farms and ranches allow Conservation District have been abandoned. Many Supervisors in North farms have become so

Carolina to have a say in severely eroded that they are unproductive and have been left to grow up.

Conservation defined is wise use of a resource. It is looking to the future. With these problems across our nation, it becomes apparent that Northeastern North Carolina has an excellent future for agriculture. But it must be maintained and cared for, because in the future, we as a nation will need this land. If the United States is losing 3-million acres of farmland each year, it is obvious that our landowners and landusers are dealing with our most precious resource, our soil.

Booster Club Holds Meeting

The Lawrence Academy Booster Club will hold their first meeting on Sept. 21, at 8 P. M. in the Lawrence Academy gymnasium. The program will be an open house for parents to meet and talk with their children's teachers. All parents are urged to attend.

Dedication To Be Held

Teachers of the Sunday School at First Presbyterian Church will be dedicated this Sunday at the 11 A. M. worship. The pastor will preach on "Rabbi!"

The Church Family Supper will be held as a Cover Dish at 6:30 P. M. Rev. Richard Tatum of the Cann Memorial Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth City will be the guest speaker. He will be discussing the Youth Club program.

In former pastorates Mr. Tatum helped develop this midweek meeting of young children that involves parents in the project. Those who are particularly interested in this program are invited to come.



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