

## IN WASHINGTON

WHAT IS TAKING PLACE BY

*Robert R. Reynolds*

UNITED STATES SENATOR

Before Congress adjourns, a decision must be made as regards future Federal policies on expenditures for public roads. This decision will be of prime importance to North Carolina which has counted heavily on Federal aid. For example, the state now receives approximately \$4,750,000 a year as its share of Federal participation in building main highways, secondary roads and the elimination of grade crossings.

Obviously, if this fund is eliminated it will vitally affect construction of roads in North Carolina. It would perhaps fall heavily on rural communities off the state trunk lines. It would also delay the building of much-needed farm-to-market roads of great importance to the farmer. Whatever else may be said of farm conditions, members of Congress are in agreement that improved highways have added to farm values and bettered the status of agriculture.

The situation in Washington is briefly as follows. Up to the present, Federal aid funds have been authorized two years in advance of actual appropriation of the money. This has been done so that state highway departments might plan ahead and so that legislatures might arrange for the Federal funds to be matched. Under this plan, there has been developed a great system of interstate highways criss-crossing the country.

Last November, President Roosevelt recommended to Congress that authorizations already made for the fiscal year 1939 be cancelled and that Federal road funds for the fiscal years 1940 and 1941 be limited to \$125,000,000. This amount is approximately one-half of the total authorized for the fiscal years 1938 and 1939. The President's recommendation is still before Congress, although allotment of the 1939 funds has been made to the states. Secondary or farm-to-market roads are involved along with all other Federal-aid highway projects.

In the face of this unsettled situation, proposals are now made for the government to use its credit in sponsoring the building of transcontinental and North and South super-highways, to be financed by tolls and profits from excess right-of-way. There is general agreement that super-highways are desirable. But a few important questions are presented. These are:

Can the government afford at this time to issue new billions of highway bonds? Would super-highways draw sufficient traffic and sufficient tolls to pay interest and retire the bonds? What would be the effect on the Federal-aid system and state highways? Would the Federal highway bonds affect state highway bonds? Would super-highways lessen the work on secondary or farm-to-market roads? Can motorists, now paying more than a billion dollars in special taxes, bear a new burden of a half billion or more a year in tolls?

To get answers to these questions and help determine Federal policies with reference to road expenditures, hearings will be held by Congressional committees and will be followed with interest by everyone concerned with the development and maintenance of adequate highways.

It may also be anticipated that the President will make further statements as regards his thoughts on the subject. As Governor of New York, he had ample opportunity to gain first-hand information on the importance of Federal-aid to the states. Moreover, he has long been a highway enthusiast.

Whatever may finally result in the way of new Federal road policies, it is evident that highway progress is vitally linked with the welfare of the nation and there is agreement that everything possible must be done to keep it moving on a sound basis.

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## FIRST QUOTA REFERENDA TO BE HELD ON MARCH 12

(U. S. Dept. Agriculture)

The first referendum under the new Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 will be held on March 12 among the cotton farmers and producers of flue-cured, fire-cured and dark air-cured tobacco. Secretary Wallace announced today. The outcome of the referendum will determine whether marketing quotas will be applied to these commodities in 1938.

Marketing quotas cannot be used except with the approval of a large majority of the farmers since the Act itself provides that if more than one-third of the producers voting in a referendum vote against the quotas, they will not go into effect.

Where cotton, flue-cured or dark tobacco, which includes both fire-cured and dark air-cured, are grown in the same locality, the referendum for each commodity will be held at the same time and place but the vote on each commodity will be separate.

The referendum regulations provide for a voting place in each community where cotton, flue-cured or dark tobacco are grown. The polls open not later than 9:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Each producer who grew cotton, flue-cured or dark tobacco in 1937 will be entitled to cast one vote in the referendum for the commodity.

The national cotton allotment specified for 1938 in the proclamation was 10,000,000 standard bales plus the number of bales allotted under section 343 (c) of the Act. This section provides that the allotment of no county shall be less than 60 percent of the acreage planted to cotton in 1937 plus the acreage diverted from cotton under the conservation program. This results in a total acreage allotment of approximately 26,300,000 acres. This acreage at 10-year average yields will result in a crop of 10,129,000 bales and at 5-year average yields in a crop of 11,230,000 bales. Acreage allotments will be established for each individual farm and if the allotment is not exceeded, all the cotton produced on the farm may be sold without the payment of any penalty.

Normal supply, which quotas would be used to attain, is defined in the Act as normal domestic consumption and exports, plus 40 percent as a surplus reserve. The present supply of American cotton is about 25,000,000 bales, largely the result of the record crop of 18,700,000 bales in 1937, and it is estimated that the carry-over on August 1, 1938, will be

around 12,000,000 bales, or only 1,000,000 bales less than the record carryover of 13,000,000 bales in 1937.

The national marketing quota proclaimed for the 1938 crop of flue-cured tobacco is 705,000,000 pounds and the quota for dark tobacco is 145,000,000 pounds. The 1937 flue-cured crop was \$50,000,000 pounds and the dark crop was 158,000,000 pounds. The quotas will be divided among States on the basis of production, plus diversion under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration programs during the past five years, with adjustments for abnormal weather conditions and plant bed diseases for small farms and for trends in production. The marketing quotas established under the new Act for tobacco will be independent from the acreage allotments established under the Agricultural Conservation Program and the penalties applicable for sales in excess of the poundage marketing quotas for farms will bear no relation to acreage allotments for farms. However, the acreage allotments will be such that, under ordinary conditions, the production on the allotments will be in line with marketing quotas.

The Act provides that quotas are to be effective, if not disapproved by more than one-third of producers voting in the referendum, if the supply of any kind of tobacco exceeds the reserve supply level. The present supply of flue-cured tobacco exceeds the reserve supply level by approximately 50,000,000 pounds; the supply of fire-cured and dark air-cured tobacco exceeds the reserve supply level by approximately 20,000,000 pounds.

"Every precaution is being taken to safeguard the interests of all cotton and flue-cured tobacco and fire-cured and dark air-cured tobacco producers in the marketing quota referendum," Administrator H. B. Tolley, of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, said. "Every opportunity will be given to the producers of these commodities in all localities to vote. The machinery will be set up so as to safeguard every producer's right to vote as he determines."

The average cost of terracing land in Guilford County in 1937 amounted to \$2.92 an acre.

A survey of farm lands in Alamance County by a committee of farmers indicated that 5,000 acres are of doubtful value in farming; 17,000 acres have no agricultural value, and 2,500 acres are within town limits. This leaves 257,000 acres of agricultural land though some of this lies within the areas of unincorporated towns.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

by REV. CHARLES F. DUNN

Measuring a Man's Worth.

Lesson for Sunday, February 27. Mark 5:1-17.

Golden Text: Matt. 12:12.

"How much then is a man better than a sheep?" inquires our Golden Text. It all depends upon one's point of view. Suppose that one is a convinced materialist, believing that life is essentially purposeless, a mere cog in a ruthless machine. If this be our creed then man is a little better than a sheep, but not very much better. Or suppose we strive to answer Jesus' question from the standpoint of money value. In actual dollars and cents, is a man worth more than a sheep? Not if you consider simply the value of the chemical ingredients in his body. For it has been carefully calculated that these are worth, on the average, only 98c.

But let us now consider the answer to the Master's question from the standpoint of Jesus himself. At once we are struck by his altogether astonishing faith in man. His faith in God is wonderful, so clear, persuasive, and triumphant. But equally marvelous is his trust in his fellows. What was the burden of the first sermon that Jesus preached in Nazareth, his home town? It was an appeal for international brotherhood. What is the teaching of the sublime parable of the prodigal son? It brings God to our attention, surely. But it stresses man quite as much. What was the Master's answer to the lawyer's query, "Who is my neighbor?" The memorable story of the Good Samaritan.

## RUPTURE

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H. M. SHEVNAN, widely known expert of Chicago, will personally be at the Rick's Hotel, Rocky Mount, Monday, only, February 28, from 9 A. M. to 6 P. M.

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