

SENATOR ERVIN SAYS

WASHINGTON-In the drive toward adjournment, the Senate has passed the Farm Bill, 47 to 37, the Drug Bill, 78 to 0, and has scheduled the Tax Revision Bill for debate. This tax bill should be distinguished from the emergency tax cut proposal which has been set aside for this season. I voted for passage of the Farm and Drug bills. As this column is being written, the final form of the Tax Revision Bill has not been determined by the Senate and no votes have been taken on the measure.

TAX BILL-The Tax Revision Bill known as the Revenue Act of 1962 passed the House on March 29 under a closed rule permitting no amendments. Congress has considered its basic provisions since April 30, 1961, when the President sent up his tax message. The Senate Finance Committee deleted from the House version of the bill a provision relating to the taxing of dividends and interest by withholdings. The principal provision of the Senate bill is a proposed seven percent tax credit for business investment in the purchase of equipment, machinery, and certain other property. The other twenty-six sections of the bill are primarily concerned with the deductibility of expenses and the treatment of certain capital gains transactions. The controversial nature of tax revision is dem-

onstrated by the report filed on this bill by the Senate Finance Committee. Ten of the seventeen Senators who comprise the Committee filed views separate from those prepared by Senator Kerr who drafted the majority report.

FARM BILL-For the second time this year the Senate has passed its version of a Farm Bill. The first version was approved by the Senate, 42 to 38, on May 27. That bill was rejected by the House 215 to 205. The House then passed a measure which had among its provisions an extension of emergency wheat and feed grain programs, voluntary controls on milk production, and a program to convert croplands into recreational areas and other uses.

The latest Senate-passed Farm Bill alters the House bill in two major respects. It contains a one-year extension of the present temporary feed grain voluntary controls program, but wipes off the statutes the permanent Corn Act of 1958. The 1958 Act provides that corn be supported at 90% of the preceding three year average market price, but at no less than 65% of parity. That Act has no limitation on corn production. Today the Federal Government has in storage 1,650 million bushels of corn and grain sorghums. Senator Ellender stated during the debate that "corn and other feed grains and wheat cost the taxpayers \$900 million a year to store". It was in this climate of huge surpluses that the Senate passed earlier this session a bill providing for stricter wheat and feed grain production controls. Feed grain controls were left on a voluntary basis in the second Senate bill.

The Senate-House versions of the Farm Bill also differ over wheat. The House measure merely extends for one year the present emergency wait program. The Senate approved a wheat certificate plan which would institute a national marketing quotas with a minimum of one billion bushels a year. Currently wheat has no bushel requirement. It is based on a minimum national allotment of 55 million acres. Average wheat production per acre has been running about 22 to 26 bushels per acre. Wheat production averaged about 12 bushels per acre in 1938 when the 55 million allotment was established. Huge wheat surpluses have accrued in recent years due to technological and research advances.

Senate-House conferees this week will try to iron out a Farm Bill acceptable to both bodies. North Carolina's tobacco, cotton, and peanut programs are not changed by the bill. The most that can be said for the Senate bill is that it is the best bill that could be passed under the circumstances. The only advantage of the Senate feed grains amendment is that it will require Congress to take another look at that program next year.

"God has lent us the earth for our life. It is a great entail. It belongs as much to those who are to Tenniferia Smith Reporter come after us as to us, and we have no right by anything we do or neglect, to involve them in any unnecessary penalties, or to deprive them of the benefit which was in our power to bequeath." - Ruskin

In truth, people can generally make time for what they choose to do; it is not really the time but the will that is lacking.

Sir John Lubbock
Witchweed, a parasite of corn and other grasses, was first discovered in North Carolina in 1956, and has since been identified in 30 counties in the Carolinas.

Headquarters for the fight against the pest is the N. C. Department of Agriculture's Border Belt Tobacco Research Station at Whiteville. Field experiments are conducted at a 55-acre farm near Evergreen and a 92-acre farm near Dillon, S. C.

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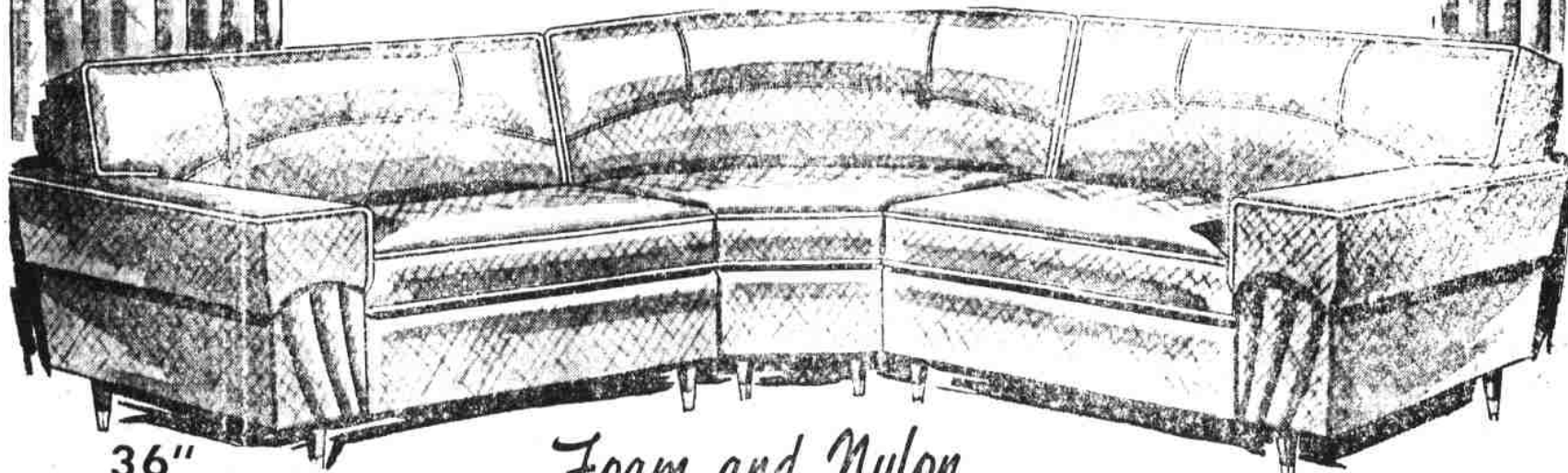
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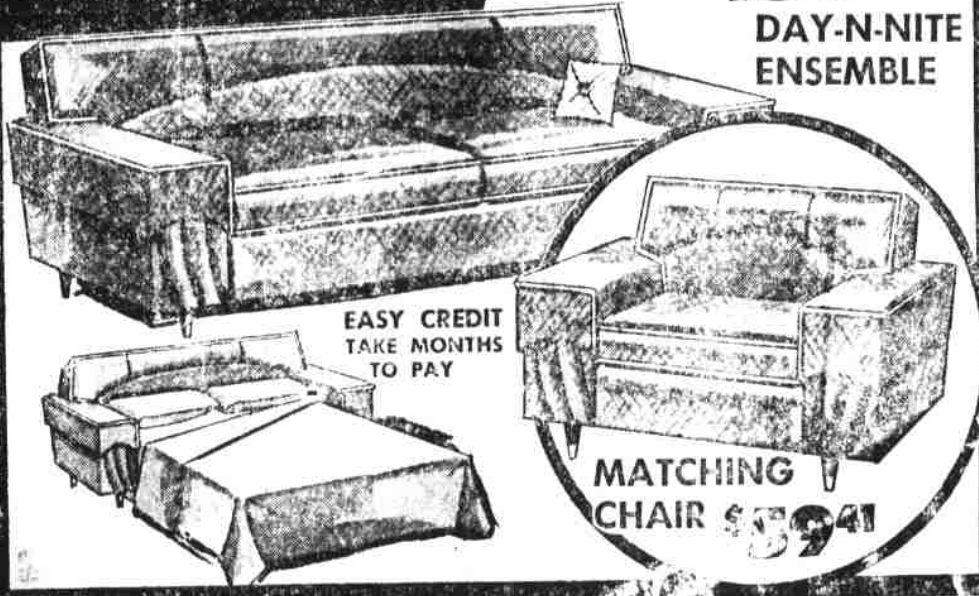
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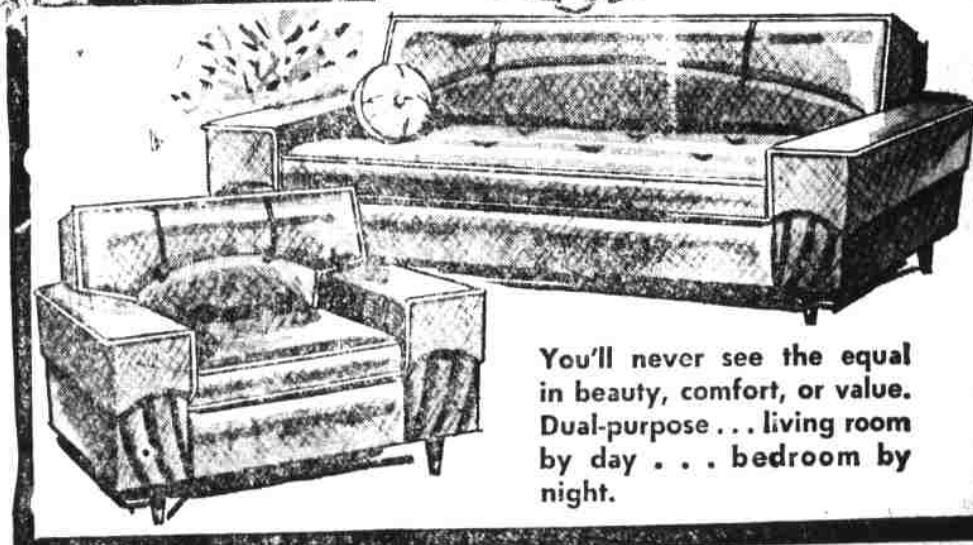
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