

# Farmers Are Urged To Vote For Plan

Letter Written by Prominent Pilot Mountain Farmer and Business Man States That South Is Faced with the Darkest Outlook in the History of Flue-Cured Tobacco; Urges Three-Year Control

Editor's Note: The Tribune prints herewith a letter received from I. M. Gordon, prominent business man and tobacco farmer, who urges all farmers to vote for three-year control. Mr. Gordon's letter follows:

Editor Tribune:  
We face the darkest outlook in the history of flue-cured tobacco.

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co. This applies to growers and all other citizens within the tobacco belt. Hence "all hands" should be wide awake and busy.

The leaders of our nation, states and counties, as well as tobacco warehousemen, are doing all in their power in the papers, over radio and otherwise, to save us tobacco growers from destruction; and destruction will surely be our portion if we fail to vote control July 20th. On that morning we will stand at the parting of the ways, and it will then be determined whether we will use our heads and save ourselves and our neighbors, or ignore the advice and earnest admonitions of the leaders of thought throughout the land; and by a stupid blunder destroy half our tobacco income for this year, amounting to many millions of dollars; and for likely all time to come, amounting in the future to untold millions. Yes, our intelligent leaders are doing all possible to restrain us from committing suicide. Will we stop before we plunge to financial death? I prefer to pay attention to men who can think through this matter—men who are in position to know—and who know they know—rather than trail along with those who know not and know not that they know not.

Among others, Governor Hoey is doing his best to save the situation.

He says failure of control means "flooded markets and starvation prices." He further states over the radio that it is inconceivable that the intelligent farmers of North Carolina will vote down control.

With stocks of tobacco on hand in America greatly increased, and on account of the terrible wars raging in Europe, we are unable to send much tobacco across the waters, where heretofore they have been taking about half of all the flue-cured tobacco we produced. Our "money crop" is in grave danger, and unless we vote control the Government refuses to enter the market with its millions of money to buy export grades, to hold for export when the war is over, for it cannot afford to continue to pile up and pay for over production which must finally be consumed in the trade, and as result the prices will drop this year to half what it will be if we vote the 3-year plan. The buyers in our own country will consider it foolish to pay for and store up high-priced tobacco which they do not need when if they will wait until next year they will be able to get all they want and more than they want, at pauper prices when the farmers are turned loose and in a wild orgy grow enough in one year possibly to meet the needs two years. And it is unfair to call buyers ugly names because they are unable to permit us dump unlimited quantities of tobacco on them at high prices. Low prices is their only way to protect themselves from being "snowed under" when production is unlimited. We cannot change the immutable law of supply and demand. There is no way under the heavens to control and sustain living prices unless we control production. Our financial structure is in danger of collapse as prices take a sharp "nose dive." If and when this comes, Mr. Voter, how will you pay your debts if you are owing

any, and save your property; or, if others are owing you, how will you collect; and if you are out and want to go in debt who will extend you credit, if on the strength of growing tobacco? Better give one sober thought before you shut your eyes and ears and take the plunge.

We have a worthy control plan which is workable and is the best and the only plan that has been devised to take care of the problem of tobacco growers, so far as prices are concerned. It is adjustable. It is in the hands of men at Washington and in North Carolina who know how much tobacco stock is on hand; how much is required to fill the needs of the trade, and how much should be grown to supply all that is required, and they can adjust the acreage for cultivation accordingly, either up or down and at the same time avoid over production and ruinous prices. This is OUR PLAN, and the government is not "bossing us," as some would have us believe, but merely assisting us to enforce OUR PLAN and but for this government feature our control plan would go to pieces. We need to get a few things clear in our minds—one of which is that whether we like it or not, we are going to be controlled in the future just like we have in the past—either by our own plan or by starvation prices. I prefer living prices rather than going under the galling yoke of pauper prices ever hereafter, with only enough cash to keep soul and body from separating company.

We will sell as much tobacco in the long run, under control plan as under wide open plan. This is because that only a certain amount tobacco can be consumed, which in normal times is about 775 million pounds, and either plan will produce that amount—one at decent prices and the other at pauper prices. Of course if wide open, much more tobacco would be produced and sold or if given away for a year or two, then farmers would be bogged down and forced to give it up until the glut cleared, and that would bury good prices to rise no more.

If there are those who feel that they have not been treated fairly, don't junk the best system ever devised for our tobacco, but strive to stay with it. It may be a misunderstanding. It may be that some one handling the division of acres has actually been unfair either ignorantly or because he is unworthy to have the job. I have no respect for any man in such position who would mistreat any farmer, black or white, for prejudice, or religious or political reasons, or in order to give a relative or friend the advantage. Such official is really an enemy to us all, for he is endangering our control plan. He is too small to be in—he should be put out at first opportunity. We have "black sheep" in churches and in all governments and other organizations, but we try to get rid of them and save the churches and organizations. We cannot afford to destroy ourselves in order to hit that fellow, for he is not worth the ammunition. Nearly all other businesses, trades, and professions are organized and it would be worse than self-destruction for us like fussy children to junk our splendid control system. There is really only one side to this proposition.

For us tobacco growers July 20 is the most important election that will be held this year. Let us rise up on that date and give a great majority for the 3-year plan, and by doing so safeguard our property and our families and decent standards of living.

Yours for control,  
I. M. GORDON.  
Pilot Mountain, N. C., July 13, 1940.

## MINE RIDGE

Mr. and Mrs. Lon Darnell and family, of Fries, Va., were the week-end guests of Mrs. Alice Burchett.

Misses Pearl and Genevieve Collins, of Glade Valley, were the overnight guests Sunday of Miss Stella Lowe.

Ephen Shoffner has returned to his home in Fries, Va., following a visit of a week with his daughter, Mrs. Tyre Ross.

Banner Parks, of Sparta, was the week-end guest of Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Smith.

Miss Lillie Hall is spending this week in Fries, Va., the guest of relatives and friends.

Mrs. Earl Sneed, of Elkin, was the guest of friends here over the week-end.

A number of people from here attended the foot washing at Old State Road Primitive Baptist church Sunday.

Avery Norman, of Summerfield, visited friends and relatives here Sunday and Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Whitaker and family, of Little Richmond, were the guests Sunday of his brother, Arie Whitaker, and Mrs. Whitaker.

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