

SENATOR LENNON REPORTS

Washington—The bill to amend the Taft-Hartley Act was sent back to Committee by vote of the Senate last Friday.

Amendments
The parliamentary situation which developed around this legislation was such that it would have been unwise to pass it. What happened was that the amendments reported out by the Senate Labor Committee did not seem to please the liberal, conservative or middle-of-the-road Senators. Some thought the amendments would weaken Taft-Hartley; others felt that some of the amendments were too harsh; many felt that the legislation would pick up so many other amendments that the final result was that the legislation was sent back to committee by a vote of 50 to 42. My vote was to recommit.

Wheel Chair
The anticipated close vote brought out 94 of the 96 Senators. Senator Butler of Nebraska was brought in a wheel chair to vote. He has a fractured leg, injured in a fall recently. Even the Army-McCarthy hearings halted for the afternoon in order for everybody to be present.

At The Top
North Carolinians attended the Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner here last week in large number, ranking second in attendance among all the states. Texas was first. South Carolina was third.

Potato Festival
An event of note is set for this week-end in Elizabeth City. It's the Albemarle Potato Festival. I have received a copy of the official program and it is full of interesting information about the Albemarle section of North Carolina.

Federal Aid
Along with all of the Minority mem-

Farm Operators Are Older: 800,000 Now 65 Years And Over

The nation's farm operators are steadily growing older, according to information compiled by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

There are now approximately 800,000 farm operators who are 65 years old and over. This makes agriculture by far the biggest single source of gainful employment and means of livelihood for those in this age group.

Close to 35 per cent of the total number of farms, or more than one out of every three, are run by persons 55 years old and over. Approximately 15 per cent of all farm operators, or more than one out of every seven, are 65 and over.

Highest Ratios on Record
These proportions, which are based on the findings of the 1950 Census of Agriculture, are the highest on record in figures going back to 1910. Conversely, there has been a long-term decline in the number and proportion of farm operators of the younger age groups. This decline has been especially pronounced in the case of those under 35, reflecting primarily the new opportunities in growth of off-the-farm employment.

The figures indicate that relatively more young operators are found on the larger and more efficient farms, where income and opportunity are greatest. The largest proportion of operators 65 and over are on low production, part-time and residential farms. Many of these are retirement units or supplementary sources of income.

In the four decades between 1910 and 1950, the number of farms in the United States declined by just under a million. Here is what happened to the age composition of operators of these farms in the period, broken down by principal age groups:

The number of operators under 35 years of age showed a decline of over 800,000, or 45 per cent. In 1950 this age group represented less than 19 per cent of all farm operators as against 29 per cent in 1910.

Those between 35 and 54 decreased by more than 500,000 or 17 per cent. This group represented 46 1/2 per cent of all farm operators in 1950 as compared with about 47 1/2 per cent in 1910.

The Older Groups
The number of farm operators between 55 and 64 increased by more than 100,000, or 12 per cent. This group in the latest Census made up just under 20 per cent of all farm operators as against approximately 15 per cent in 1910.

Farm operators aged 65 and over increased in number by nearly 250,000, or 44 per cent. In 1910 these elderly farmers made up less than 9 per cent of all farm operators. The 1950 proportion was just under 15 per cent.

CATHOLIC SERVICES
On the first Sunday of every month, first mass is in Palace Theatre, Windsor, at 8 A. M. Also mass at 10 A. M. on that Sunday in St. Ann's

bers of the Senate, I am co-sponsoring a bill (S. 3417) to amend the public assistance provisions of the Social Security Act by extending for two years the increased Federal financial participation to the States for assistance to the aged, blind, disabled, and aid to dependent children. This assistance was passed in 1952 for two years, and unless action is taken now, it will expire September 30. Under the prior formula on old-age-assistance grants, the Federal government paid \$15 of the first \$20 and half of the next \$30 a month. Under the revised formula of Section 8 of the Social Security Act Amendment of 1952, the Federal share became \$20 of the first \$25 and then half of the next \$30.

Industrial Growth
On last Friday I inserted in the Appendix of the Congressional Record an article dealing with the diversification of the economy of North Carolina as shown by the expansion of Western Electric which now employs 10,000 people in our State. You will probably recall that this article, written by Wade Lucas, appeared in many of our newspapers recently. The stability of our State depends on the continued development of a good balance between agriculture and industry. I was proud to make it possible for the people of the United States to see what we are accomplishing in North Carolina.

This And That
The bill to authorize \$966 million in appropriations for continuing the construction of highways has been signed into law. The Senate Finance Committee has been continuing its executive consideration of H. R. 8300, the general tax revision bill. Senator Hoey, as a member of that committee, has been devoting long hours on this matter.

Church, Edenton, stated Father John Beshel, pastor. All other Sunday masses in Edenton will be at 9 A. M., and 7:30 A. M., on week-days, he said.

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