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## Congressman Cooley Issues Report On Farm Program

By H. D. COOLEY

During the fifteen years I have served on the House Committee on Agriculture, that Committee has been remarkably free of partisan politics. During that fifteen years more legislation beneficial to farmers has been enacted by the Congress of this Country than had been enacted in all of the previous decades of our past history. Having participated in the preparation and passage of the numerous bills which have made possible the well-rounded farm program we now have, I naturally take great pride in my membership on that great Committee. Actually, I am the only North Carolinian who has served on the House Committee on Agriculture in over one hundred and four years, and now by virtue of my service, I am Chairman of the Committee.



CONGRESSMAN COOLEY

Our present farm program is a program of many parts. It has been tried and tested, and has served the cause of agriculture exceedingly well, both in time of peace and in time of war. Under this program the farmers of the Nation have enjoyed a higher degree of prosperity than they have ever before enjoyed. The program on non-perishable basic commodities has been most successful. The part of the program that deals with perishable non-storable commodities has shown weakness and imperfection.

Unfortunately, our very valuable farm program was endangered and imperiled in the dying hours of the 80th Congress. Politically ambitious men, inspired by an intemperate zeal to elect themselves to public office, brought terrific pressure to bear on the Republican members of the 80th Congress. As a result of this political pressure, at daybreak on Sunday morning, June 20, 1948, the Republican sponsored Aiken Bill was forced through the House of Representatives. Not even its sponsors understood its provisions, and this we now well know. When the searchlight of truth was played upon it, the farmers of America knew it for what it really was. It was a yoke of thorns for the necks of farmers and if it should become the law of the land, it would bleed our farmers white and drive them into bankruptcy.

When the 81st Congress convened in January, I became Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture. My very first official act was to appoint a Subcommittee to study and to interpret the Aiken Bill, line by line and paragraph by paragraph, to the end that the truth might be known concerning its provisions. When this study had been concluded we set out to do two things. First, to repeal the Aiken Bill and to save the farm program which had served the farmers of the Nation so well. Second, to strengthen and to perfect that program. To implement, to supplement, and to improve it in every way possible.

When we examined the program on perishable commodities we found that it had proven to be woefully wasteful and expensive. On the potato program, alone, the government had sustained a loss of \$408,000,000. On the price support program for eggs the government had accumulated 60,000,000 pounds of powdered eggs at a total cost to the taxpayers of \$84,000,000. In supporting the prices of wool, even a storable commodity, we had sustained a loss in excess of \$80,000,000. Not only had the government suffered tremendous financial losses, but commodities had been diverted from normal markets and away from the mouths of hungry people, only to decay and rot. Tons and trainloads of potatoes were actually destroyed, permitted to rot, or to be fed to hogs, 60,000,000 pounds of powdered eggs are now deteriorating in storage. If, under the present program the price of hogs should decline below the support level of \$16.50 per hundred weight, it would then be necessary for the Secretary of Agriculture to step in and to buy either live hogs from the farmers or dressed hogs from the packers, and he might be required to buy as much as a billion pounds of pork. Should he

elect to buy live hogs, it is plain to see that immediately the government would be in the hog raising business, in the feed business, in the vaccination business, in the slaughterhouse business, and in the storage business. Even after the hogs had been purchased, vaccinated, fed, slaughtered, and stored, they would have to be sold in world markets outside of the United States. To sell them back into the American market would defeat the objective of the program. If dressed hogs were purchased we would still be faced with a gigantic storage problem. Pork starts to deteriorate in storage after 10 or 12 months. So it is plain to see that we might conceivably have under such a program a billion pounds of spoiled meat. This, added to 60,000,000 pounds of rotten eggs and tons upon tons of rotten potatoes and other vital and valuable foodstuffs, might ultimately destroy the entire farm program. Faced with this situation, we started out to do something about it in the hope we might provide a different method, a more practical and more effective method, of supporting the prices of perishable commodities. We sought a method which would eliminate the future possibility that tremendous quantities of foodstuffs might again be accumulated at a terrific cost, only to be permitted to rot and decay while millions of people were suffering from hunger. Our great Secretary of Agriculture came forward with a proposal that the law be amended or clarified so as to permit the use of production payments. Under this proposal producers would be required to make every reasonable effort to keep supply in line with demand. If, because of forces beyond their control, a surplus were still produced and farmers were faced with a break in prices, the surplus would be permitted to move on into the market places to be sold for the best price obtainable. The government would then step in and make up the difference between the average price which the farmer received and the price indicated by the "price support standard" as fair and reasonable and just, and the production payments would protect the farmer, commodities at the lower price, and the consumer could obtain them. Thus, we would avoid the expense of buying, storing, shipping, and selling, and most important of all we would avoid the waste of valuable foodstuffs in the future.

With these two propositions, first the repeal of the Aiken Bill, and second, the production payment program, we came before the House of Representatives last week the House took action. On our first proposition, we won a great victory. By an overwhelming vote the House of Representatives repudiated and repealed the Aiken Bill—the monstrosity which was threatening to destroy the farmers of this Nation. This action, which led to the repeal of the Aiken Bill, started in the House Committee on Agriculture. It was not the result of a coalition, nor was it born of conspiracy. It was a forthright and open effort on the part of the 17 Democrats

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## Road Problems

T. J. McKim, the new Division engineer for the Fourth Division, and Dr. R. E. Earp will be in the Johnston County Courthouse at 9:00 a. m. on Monday, August 1st, for the purpose of hearing any individuals or delegations who might wish to present road problems.

## Talent Contests for Farm Week

One of the many entertainment features of the 1949 Farm and Home Week at State College, August 8 to 11, will be a series of daily talent contests offering prizes totaling \$160, says John W. Goodman, assistant director of the State College Extension Service.

There will be no limit on the kind of talent entered, Mr. Goodman said. He suggested such things as choruses, solos, musical instruments, ballads, recitations, folk dancing and stunts. The North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation is donating the funds for the talent contest.

Any farm group or individual may enter. Elimination contests each day will screen entries down to four to be heard on the evening programs of August 8, 9 and 10. The winners of each evening show will compete for final honors and prizes on the evening of August 11.

A first prize of \$25 and a second prize of \$15 will be at stake each evening, including the final evening. Entries must be in by August 1. Persons interested should notify M. E. Starnes, Extension Division, State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.

Several other entertainment features have been planned for the week. Among these is a quiz show to be directed by Bob Hawk nationally known radio quizmaster. Daytime programs at Farm and Home Week will be devoted to talks and demonstrations on all phases of farming and homemaking. Among the featured speakers are Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan and North Carolina's own Harold D. Cooley, chairman of the House Agricultural Committee.

## Boll Weevils Are On the Increase

By JOHN E. PILAND  
County Agent

The Boll Weevil infestation in the middle cotton counties of North Carolina, which includes Johnston has almost doubled in the last ten days. The Boll Weevil migration is starting now and the average infestation of the counties is between thirty and thirty-five percent. This is to say that out of 100 squares in the average cotton field at this time there are thirty to thirty-five being punctured either partially or totally destroyed. Many fields that have not shown serious infestation up-to-date, are beginning to show heavy infestation since weevils are traveling extensively from other fields.

Indications from many Johnston County fields where dust has been used are showing decidedly that Boll Weevil infestation can be kept down by the use of proper poisons and frequent dusting. A dusting every five days with at least ten pounds of 3-5-40 or twenty per cent Toxaphene is recommended to keep infestation down. We can still make a crop of cotton in Johnston County in spite of the Boll Weevils with just a fair break on the weather and proper dusting, it is believed. This cannot be however with Boll Weevils destroying thirty to fifty percent of the squares as they form.

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## Loaded Car Fenders Cause Accident

Last Thursday Mr. Kermit Raper of the Stancil Chapel section had his car loaded with people who had been burning tobacco. Included in the load were some young people on the fenders of the car which blocked his view. Without seeing the wagon in front of him Mr. Raper's car plowed into the wagon.

Miss Margie Lee Davis was one of the fender riders and got her leg scraped and bruised rather badly. The others on the car were not hurt.

The wagon carried Bobby Davis, Ralph Stancil, Billy Narron, and Preston Narron. Billy Narron received a broken leg and is in Woodard-Herring Hospital.



The men in the picture are: Mr. Leon Woodruff, chairman of the Building Committee of the Selma Baptist Church; Rev. H. B. Land, Jr., pastor, and Mr. J. A. Creech, chairman of the Building Fund Committee. Mr. Woodruff holds a carpenter's square and a hand saw in each hand; Mr. Land holds the Bible and Mr. Creech holds a bag full of money, which members and friends contributed to the fund.

## Baptist Church Market Opens; Services Sunday \$50 Average

The Selma Baptist Church is justly proud of the committees of which the two men, standing by their pastor are chairman. They have been instrumental in the renovating of the auditorium and the raising of the money necessary for the face-lifting. Both committees have spent much time and energy in directing the work and raising the money. The Building Fund Committee has led the church in a plan for at least a hundred members to contribute fifty-cent a week to the building fund until the debts are paid, and others to pay as they are able.

As you enter the vestibule of the church, you step on a large carpet mat and pass through the auditorium, you pass through two windowed swinging doors. The first thing to take your eye in the auditorium are the pastel green ivory ceiling, pastel green walls. As you are looking at the ceiling, you stand in awe at the lovely lantern. The rest of the lights are concealed in the ceiling. The aisles are covered with Alexander-Smith's new Barbazin two-tone rose carpet.

The church has given above \$1800.00 to missions and benevolent causes, while at the same time carrying on this large renovating program. The church is trying to uphold THE GREAT COMMISSION of our Lord.

## Charlie Straughn Is With Insurance Co.

Charlie Straughn has resigned his position with the Town of Selma and Monday accepted work with the Durham Life Insurance Company of Durham. His territory embraces Debit No 7 which includes Selma, Wilson's Mills, Micron, Kenly, Lucama and Pine Level.

Mr. Straughn went with the Town of Selma in 1937. In the past 12 years he has served as chief of police, assistant chief, night policeman and tax collector.

## Independents Lost to Selma Lions Club

The Independent soft ball team lost its first game this season to the Lions on Tuesday night. The Kiwanis team defeated the VFW.

Julian Avery and R. E. Suber appeared in the Kiwanis line up for the first time and performed very well for the winning Kiwanians. Mr. Avery batted from the left side of the plate as well as the right.

The Lions and VFW meet at 7:30 Friday night and the Kiwanians and Independents meet at 8:30.

## Selma Boy Scout Gives Name of Bird

Last week's edition of The Johnstonian-Sun carried the picture of a strange bird, which John H. Williams found while plowing on Sharpe street.

Max Peedin, a senior patrol leader for Selma Boy Scout troop No. 32, who is now studying birds to earn a merit badge identified the bird as a kingfisher. The bird breeds in coastal sand-banks, according to Max. The Selma Scout has gone far enough in his bird studies that he can identify from 95 to 45 birds in the field. To earn the Scout merit badge he is studying for, it is necessary to know only 40 birds on sight.



COMMANDER WILBUR D. PERKINS

## New Legion Commander Life Long Booster of Selma

Wilbur D. Perkins, a stout jolly native of Selma, who has played Santa Claus to hundreds of children, was recently elected commander of American Legion Post No. 141. Wilbur announced his arrival in Selma May 11, 1896 in a home on East Railroad. From that day until this he has been interested in the town and he played a major role in helping to develop its civic clubs. His father was the late David E. Perkins of Wayne County. His mother, before marriage was Laura Vinson, now Mrs. J. A. Creech, of Selma. He has five brothers, who lived in Selma, and one sister, Mrs. Mildred Perkins Spencer, now lives in Oakland, Calif.

Perkins first attended school in a wooden building which was located at the corner of Green and Waddell street, the site now occupied by L. O. Davis' home. His first teacher was Mrs. Mamie Candler, now living. He does not recall who was school superintendent. Supt. B. F. Hassell was in charge of the institution when Wilbur reached high school. Perkins graduated in a class of three in 1915. The other two graduates were Stella Etheredge and Lola Gurley.

Base ball was played at school when Wilbur was a young man, but the game was called three base cat at that time. Perkins caught for the school team one season. He also played football, but that game was somewhat different from the grid iron contests of today. He played guard in basketball. He did not have a great deal of time for work due to his domestic duties. At home he learned to cook, milk cows and do other household work. Young Perkins used to milk four cows every morning and deliver the milk to customers in Selma.

When Perkins was a boy Selma used to have an annual Watermelon and Baby Show. He recalls the town would be full of people for these celebrations. He also spoke of Field Day, that used to be held in Smithfield once a year. A male quartet composed of Paul Horrell, and himself, won the championship for three consecutive years.

Wilbur's first job with a salary was working in Selma post office as clerk for eight months. Mrs. A. Z. Pearce was postmistress at the time. His next job was with Nowell and Richardson Co., which was located on the site now occupied by Floyd C. Price and Sons. He was a clerk in the store and worked under the late J. D. Jeffreys. After a year and a half he left to take a business course at King's Business College in Raleigh. For the next 11 months he studied stenotyping and accounting.

Upon returning to Selma he took a bookkeeper's job with the Southern Cotton Oil Co., N. E. Edgerton was manager and W. H. Call was cashier of the company at that time. In June of 1918 Perkins resigned and volunteered for service in World War I. He received his basic training at Fort McPherson, Atlanta, Ga., and was assigned to the base hospital medical corps. In August of 1918 he arrived in Brest, France and was assigned to a new base hospital at Camp Keheron, 10 miles from Brest. The hospital was built especially for flu patients. In June

of 1919 he left France and embarked at Hoboken, N. Y., and was mustered out at Mitchell Field, N. Y.

Perkins returned to Selma after the war and applied at Ward-Earp Co., for work. He was sent to the firm's Zebulon store to do bookkeeping. After one year the Zebulon store was consolidated with the Selma store and Perkins went with S. G. Flowers of Zebulon, where he remained for two years. In the fall of 1922 he took bookkeeping work with the Pine Level Oil Co. where he was under the supervision of Miss Eliza Hales until he left in the fall of 1925.

For the next few years Perkins did clerical work for several firms in and about Selma. In 1941 he went with Clean-M-Right Cleaners of Selma. For the past two years he has been with Sema Cleaners and Dyers, furnishing and his own car, doing pick-up and delivery service on a commission basis.

Perkins has always been stout and was called "Fatty" when a boy going to school. When 14 years old he weighed 185 pounds. He has never put himself on a diet, but instead believes in letting nature take its course. For several years he took the part of Santa Claus and made a handsome Santa Nicholas, to be loved by all children.

On May 9, 1925 he married Miss Hattie Bryant Merritt of Orange County. The Merritt homeplace is located a mile and a half from Chapel Hill on the Pittsboro highway. Mrs. Perkins is a member of the faculty of the Selma High School. She is also active in civic and community projects.

Wilbur became a member of the Edgerton Memorial Methodist Church when 12 years old. Rev. W. H. Puckett was church pastor at the time. For six years he was superintendent of the adult department. During the past six years he has been general Sunday School superintendent. He is a member of Selma Masonic Lodge No. 320 and was initiated in 1917. The same year he became a member of Selma Chapter RAM No. 65. He was elected to the Commandery in Goldsboro in 1918. He took the Shrine in Durham in 1918 and was in the second class initiated by the newly organized Sudan Temple of New Bern. He is a past master of the Selma Lodge.

Perkins is a member of Selma Chapter No. 209 of the Order of the Eastern Star and is a past patron. For five years he was district deputy of Old Roval Fourth District of O. E. S., which comprised ten counties. He is also a member of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics. When the Selma Kiwanis Club was organized 25 years ago, he was one of its charter members. He is now secretary of the club, a position he has held for five years.

Before being made commander of the local post of the American Legion, recently, Perkins served as secretary and chaplain. He was the first commander of Selma Post No. 5955 of Veterans of Foreign Wars, when it was organized. Perkins has always been musically inclined. When a young man he tried to develop his talent, but struck his Waterloo in trying to learn the piano. He studied for eight months under Mrs. M. R.

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## Children Must Report On 15 Books By August 4th to Be Eligible for Certificates

The Reading Hour sponsored by the Selma Woman's Club will continue to meet each Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 10 o'clock. The attendance has been exceptionally good this summer, according to Mrs. W. B. Warren. Each child who reads and

makes a record of as many as 15 books will receive a certificate. The books must be read and the report record book given to Miss Edith Stafford, county library summer worker by Thursday, August 4th.

All children of the community are invited to attend regularly.