

Washington Report

— By —
CONGRESSMAN WALTER B. JONES

Congress took an "election recess" on Wednesday, October 14 and will reconvene on Monday, November 16.

From many statements which I have made, I trust I have shown a rounded interest in the total development of the First Congressional District. This

involves the attraction of new industry, improved highways, pollution, problems of our public schools and many other areas. So, the fact that this column will be basically devoted to a discussion of a general farm program is not to be construed as being my only interest, but is because the House last week accepted the Senate-House version of a new farm bill. I emphasize again that this not the farm bill I would have preferred, but is the only one which the present Administration would agree to support. And without their support, no farm bill could have been enacted.

To some farmers are people who wear straw hats and carry a hoe or till the soil. Farm programs, to most people, are laws passed by the Congress which pay the farmer for doing nothing—because that is what the urban people are led to believe through critics of all farm legislation, but to thinking people, unbiased in their opinion, farmers and farm programs are still the backbone of our economy. This statement is more true in the First District of North Carolina where

farming is still our major industry.

The First District of North Carolina, which I have the honor of representing, is one of the remaining great agricultural districts of the nation. I am proud of the contributions made by the farmers, not only to the economy of the District but to all people throughout the nation. It is difficult to relate the value of an industry such as agriculture without using figures for illustration. Complete data is not available for farm income in the District from production of crops in 1969 or 1970; however, a review of income from tobacco in 1969 and the income from ten other principal crops in the district for 1968 will give you a view of what the agricultural industry contributes to our economy. In our District in 1969, farmers sold 122 million pounds of tobacco for more than \$88 million. When you add to this the estimated value of the other ten crops, you have a total estimated income from farming in our District of \$172,695,000. Most of this money was spent within the District by farmers purchasing materials and services used in their farming activities. It has been said that each dollar earned by the sale of an agricultural product by the farmer generates an additional seven dollars of economic activity. If this is true, farmers of the District are responsible for \$1,111,000,000 from the eleven principal crops alone. Data is not available to show farm income from livestock, hogs and poultry. If such data were available, it would show a tremendous increase over the figures already stated. In addition to income from crops and livestock, government payments from farm programs amounted to \$13,204,348.00 in our District. Government payments alone do not give an indication of the full value of farm programs. As a typical example, there are no government payments under the tobacco and peanut program and we know that prices received by farmers would not be as high without such programs.

As your Representative in Congress, I have had the pleasure and responsibility of serving on the House Committee on Agriculture. Serving on such committee certainly has placed me in a position to represent your views and the best interest of farmers and all other people in the First District.

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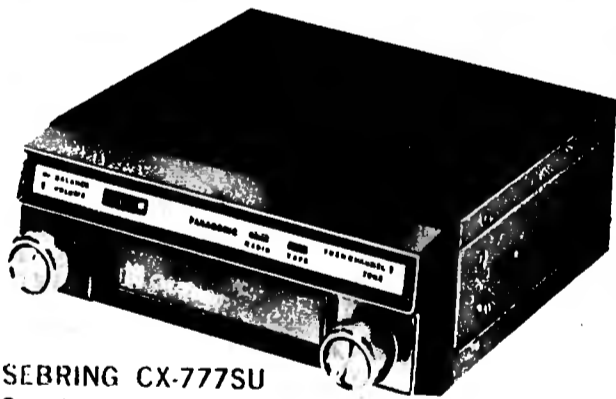
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