

Doughton Absent From Congress For First Time In Forty-Two Years

By MARGARET KERNODLE
Washington.—For the first time in 42 years, Congress organized without Robert Lee Doughton (D-NC) included in its membership.

And for the first time in 24 years, North Carolina sent a Republican along with three new Democratic members to the House of Representatives.

Doughton officially returns to being a Carolina mountaineer because his doctors told him at 89 to go home to his hills and like it. He's been doing just that since he decided last summer not to seek re-election. He was first elected to Congress in 1910.

The new Republican member is Charles R. Jonas of Lincoln, who like his father, Charles A. Jonas, defeated a Democrat to get into Congress.

Jonas beat Rep. Hamilton Jones (D-NC) by better than 21,280 votes. Jonas' dad whipped the late Rep. Bulwinkle (D-NC), of Gastonia, in 1928, but Bulwinkle later returned to Congress for many terms.

Doughton, the dean of the North Carolina delegation, remained a member of Congress officially until noon Friday, by law. Succeeding him was Hugh Alexander, of Kannapolis, who defeated his Republican opponent in November by 3,982.

Alexander is appointing Doughton's office staff as his own: Percy Meekins, formerly of Manteo and Lenoir, is his executive secretary, and Mrs. Stella O. Miller Morrison is the other staff member.

Doughton will always have the privileges of the floor—to walk or sit among his former colleagues in the House—any time he pleases, and Alexander told a reporter today he expects Doughton here, perhaps in a few weeks.

Meantime, Doughton's souvenirs of his many years in the federal government have gone back to his state, some of them to the University of North Carolina. There they will be scanned for valuable mementoes of tax history, social security and foreign

trade laws with which Doughton was connected. There were 86 of these big boxes and there are more in storerooms here.



R. L. DOUGHTON

But Doughton himself is keeping, among other things, his water buffalo antlers from the Philippines as one of his travel relics. He can look out of picture windows at Laurel Springs, N. C., far as his eyes can see—and they can see well—and call the land his own among the Blue Ridge Mountains.

In addition to Alexander, North Carolina has two other new Democrats among the 432 members of Congress taking their oaths last week. These are L. H. Fountain of Tarboro and George A. Shuford of Asheville. Fountain succeeds Rep. John H. Kerr (D-NC) of Warrenton, who was the third man of the same name and family to serve in Congress for years. Shuford succeeds Rep. Monroe Redden (D-NC), who decided to go back to Hendersonville to help get his sons established in law practice.

Alexander is in Doughton's old office for the time being. Fountain luckily got into his official home quickly, but Jonas and Shuford must wait till someone moves out before they can move in.

Farm Loans Are Now Available

Operating loans are now available through the Farmers Home Administration to help eligible operators of family type farms to get ahead through better farming, according to Jennings B. Robinson, county supervisor.

These loans are based on farm and home plans developed with each individual family to provide for best use of land, labor, livestock and equipment. To help the families carry out their plans and increase their earnings, the supervisor makes farm visits as necessary, to advise and assist them in making planned adjustments in their farming operations and in adopting approved farm and home practices.

This program serves operators of family type farms who are unable to obtain credit needed to carry on successful farming operations from local banks, production credit, associations and other sources.

To be eligible for an FHA operating loan, a farmer must (1) be a citizen of the United States, (2) have had satisfactory farm experience or training, (3) be unable to obtain needed credit from any other established source at reasonable rates and terms, (4) be earning the major part of his income from the farm and spending the major portion of his time in carrying on his farming operations and (5) own or have leased a family type farm.

The amount of these loans will

depend on the farmer's needs as determined by the farm and home plan. The interest rate is 5% and the repayment schedule will be determined by the income to be received each year. In no case may the loan run more than seven years.

The Farmers Home Administration office is in the county court house building, and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.

AIR SAFETY RECORD

The nation's scheduled airlines have apparently compiled their best safety record this year with 0.36 passenger deaths for each 100,000,000-passenger miles. The rate for 1951 was 1.3 deaths for each 100,000,000-passenger miles, while the previous low record was 1.1, set in 1950.

Health Council To Hold Meeting

The Watauga County Health Council will meet in the Cove Creek High School lunchroom on Thursday, January 8 at 7:30 p. m. Dr. John G. Martin, president, will preside.

The program will be a panel discussion on the need and possibility for obtaining a County Health Center for Watauga County. Mr. Welch Tester will be the moderator of the panel with Mr. R. W. Vines, Mr. Howard Steelman, Mrs. Mont Glover, Mrs. Dean Reese and Dr. G. K. Moose taking part.

You may get answers to some important questions by attending this meeting. Do you know the history of this health department? What does the health department offer to the public and who is entitled to receive these services and other pertinent questions may be answered for you. All citizens are encouraged to take part in the activities of the Health Council. Attendance at the regular quarterly meetings will keep you informed and provide you with possible service for your community. Meet with the council this week January 8, 7:30 p. m. at Cove Creek High School lunchroom. A film depicting services of the health department will also be a feature of the meeting.

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A Word of Appreciation

We have sold our interest in the A. C. Mast & Co., Store at Sugar Grove, and in severing our relations with this concern want to thank the people for their many considerations during our business experience there.

We have enjoyed our associations with all you people to the fullest, and are deeply appreciative of your many kindnesses, and thank each and every one sincerely for their cooperation.

Ray A. Farthing
Finley Bingham

SUGAR GROVE, NORTH CAROLINA

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