

Washington Comments

Washington, D. C.—Sen. B. Everett Jordan spent several hours last Wednesday discussing farm problems with officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The new North Carolina Senator went over to the massive Agriculture building and called on dozens of division heads and their staffs.

Senator Jordan said he wanted to get acquainted with the people who do the work in administering the farm programs and find out something about how the various programs work. Thousands of people work in the Agriculture Building and I understand there are seven miles of hallways in it, so I wanted to go over and see the operation first hand."

Senator Jordan said his conferences confirmed his beliefs that "basic research is a vital factor in the development of an expanded agricultural economy."

The new North Carolina Senator discussed at length farm problems with Dr. B. T. Shaw, director of the Agriculture Research Service, Joseph R. Williams of Winston-Salem, director of the tobacco division, and officials in the cotton, grain, livestock, dairy and poultry divisions.

Jordan noted that over half of North Carolina's farm income comes from tobacco.

I can see that the tobacco industry—growers, dealers and manufacturers alike—face similar problems to those in the cotton and textile industry. "It boils down



SENATOR JORDAN

to the simple but often complicated matter of producing and manufacturing the products the consumers want and will pay for," he said.

Jordan pointed out, for example, that filter tip cigarettes have caused many problems for farmers, "but if the industry hadn't had the ingenuity to produce them, then the cancer scare could have wrecked the whole industry."

Changes in demand in tobacco during the past few years, Jordan said, "point up the need for a more up-to-date research program."

In discussing the general farm research situation with Dr. Shaw, Senator Jordan expressed special interest in the scope of work now going on that will expand the industrial uses of farm commodities.

"There is a world of opportunity for agriculture in this area," Jordan said. "Being in the textile business, I know the importance of high quality cotton. Competition offered by synthetic fibers is keen, but there is always plenty of room for the better quality cotton, and this is attained through research. Farmers not only have to keep up with the competition, but in order to expand markets we need to find new uses for the things we already know how to grow in great volume."

Jordan said he was "gratified at the respect the tobacco program commands in the Department. The tobacco program has been getting some abuses from the higher levels in the Department, so I was especially happy to learn that it commands more respect than any other of the control programs. This comes about in part because of the fact the tobacco program has operated from its beginning at no cost to the gov-

Phone Co. Sponsors Forestry, Camp Plan

North Carolina's 4-H forestry awards and camp program will be sponsored again this year by Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Co., in cooperation with the Agricultural Extension Service, according to Walter M. Keller, extension forestry specialist.

Keller says that the purpose of the program is to encourage Tar Heel 4-H'ers to acquire knowledge and experience they need to be successful forest owners and local leaders through participation in 4-H forestry practice and training activities.

Southern Bell will underwrite expenses for the annual 4-H forestry camp, including travel expenses, for all delegates and counselors. Each county is invited to send one delegate. Twelve assistant county farm agents are invited each year to serve as counselors.

In addition to sponsoring the camp, the telephone company will

provide silver medals to county best-record winners, a trip to 4-H Club Congress for the state 4-H forestry best-record winner, trips to State 4-H Club Week for district demonstration winners and awards for the state demonstration winner.

Keller points out that, since Southern Bell first began sponsoring the forestry program in 1935, participation in individual 4-H forestry projects, such as planting, timber stand improvement and tree identification, has increased 43 per cent and project completions are reaching the 4,500-member mark. Since 1934, county participation in the 4-H forestry demonstration program has grown from 17 to 46 counties.

Also, in the past three years, two of North Carolina's best-record winners have received national awards.

ate its property more rapidly. This latter step would have the effect of stimulating business expansion, or modernization at least.

Despite all the talk about smaller cars, the 1959 model automobiles built in the United States will continue to grow lower and longer. That's the word from inside sources. A price cut?

While there is some change for a small cut, the manufacturers are prepared to grant labor a pay hike—under the same cost-of-living formula that has been in effect these past few years—and this probably precludes anything more than token cuts. If the government reduces excise taxes on automobiles, and on accessories, then prices might be down as much as \$150, more or less, depending on the extent of the tax reduction and the cost of the model being purchased.

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CURIOSITY SAVES LIVES

Chicago—The curiosity of Warren Mills saved the lives of two men whose boat upset half a mile out in Lake Michigan.

Mills was using binoculars to watch a passing freighter when he

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Poland says Tito will visit Warsaw "in spring."

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Washington News

Washington, D. C.—Within the next thirty days the subcommittee headed by Senator Jack Kennedy, and the full Labor Committee, under which the subcommittee operates, will report out a bid to amend the basic labor legislation of the country.

It will be remembered that Senate Democrats, notably Majority Leader Lyndon Johnson, promised his supporters that the Democrats would bring such a measure to the floor of the Senate this year. This point was widely credited with having proven the decisive margin in defeating a labor "bill of rights" proposed by Minority Senate Leader William Knowland, of California.

Senator Jack Kennedy finds himself squarely on the spot as chairman of the subcommittee now working on a draft of such a bill. As a potential presidential candidate he knows well that to antagonize labor to an extreme degree might nix his chances of labor support at the coming Democratic convention in 1960.

Already he has exchanged curt remarks with labor leaders ranging in importance all the way up to George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO, in hearings on the congressional issues. But the mood of the majority in Congress, and perhaps the majority in organized labor, and certainly among the voters of the nation as a whole, is strongly in favor of tighter controls on union officials and union practices.

The bill soon to emerge from the subcommittee and then the full committee, then, is a highly important piece of legislation—from the political and strategical standpoint, as far as Kennedy is concerned and as far as other possible candidates in the Senate

are concerned—like Majority Leader Johnson, for instance.

The mood in Congress is trending toward acceptance of tax cuts as an inevitable step to be taken by the last session of the 85th Congress. When tax cuts were first suggested by high government officials a near-stampede developed on Capitol Hill, among lawmakers trying to get on record, and on the bandwagon.

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Then, as the Administration demonstrated a cautious approach to the problem, and as Bernard Baruch and Senator Harry Byrd and others came opposing tax cuts—because of the high cost of defense—enthusiasm waned. In the period since the Easter recess—about a month—sentiment has gradually but surely swung around to the tax-cut remedy as an inevitable one, in the current recession.

Best bets are that some income tax aid will be given the little taxpayer, some relief offered on excise taxes and perhaps something done to allow business to depreci-

ernment. This is something all of us should be proud of."

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