

SENATOR SAM ERVIN ★ SAYS ★



WASHINGTON—The Senate Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution has been conducting hearings on proposed amendments to implement the Water Quality Act. Water has become a national concern, because usable water supplies have been shrinking rapidly in recent years.

Along with other Senators, I have co-sponsored S. 2947, a bill to take more effective steps to preserve and purify our water resources. I support S. 2947 for a very practical reason. Several years ago, the Senate Select Committee on National Water Resources found that water supplies are diminishing yearly in relation to our national needs. The Select Committee found that population and industrial growth will double our water needs by 1980 and triple these needs by the year 2000. This means that soon our growing demand for water will be more than the available supply, and water will have to be used over and over again to meet our needs.

This focuses attention on the problem of pollution. Control of water pollution stands at the apex of any effective water management program. As the late Senator Kerr used to say when he discussed pure water, pollution is never a very pleasant subject. Yet it exists and

gets worse each year. Man is careless in changing what the Eternal Creator put on earth in a more beautiful and pure form. Since man creates pollution, solving the problem is not easy. The Potomac River, in sight of the Capitol, is a prime illustration of ineffective controls to prevent filth from going into a once pure river. Last year Congress became concerned and acting upon a Presidential recommendation enacted the most comprehensive anti-pollution bill to date. The 1965 Act was a first step. Already, it needs to be implemented.

No area of the country is exempt from water pollution problems. Summer droughts have brought water shortages to all regions of the country, and pollution becomes greater when water levels decline. Our state, which has abundant water resources during normal rainfall months, has not been exempt from concern over water.

The importance of S. 2947 is that it is not a crash program, but a long-range one to coordinate governmental, industrial, and individual efforts to meet water needs before they become critical. A herculean task is involved, and no one-shot effort will bring about a cure. The measure is a six-year plan.

Disagreements that once raged over whether government had any business dealing with water pollution have abated into disagreements over the proper role of each level of government in such activities. S. 2948 represents a balanced attempt to bring individuals and their governments into a coordinated effort to deal with this basic problem that has plagued many other civilizations.

Historians tell us that the fate of nations has often been determined by how well they controlled fresh water supplies, and that empires have vanished when they failed to cope with the problem in time.

This is a problem that we must solve if we are to maintain the basis of life and a vital civilization in the decades ahead.

Soybean Profit Is On Increase

Last year soybeans added \$48 million to North Carolina farm income. Tar Heel farmers have indicated to the U. S. Agriculture Department an intention to plant 93,000 more acres to soybeans this year — an increase of 10 per cent.

If the state's average per-acre yield is the same as last year's (24.5 bushels), farm income from soybeans can be expected to increase by \$3.3 million from the added acres. However, if through good management practices North Carolina farmers can raise that average yield by 4.5 bushels—which would bring it up to the average in Illinois—farm income for the state will be increased by \$11 million.

Moreover, as the National Soybean Crop Improvement Council points out, those extra 4.5 bushels can greatly increase the ratio of profits to investment, since the higher yield requires very little extra labor, seed or fertilizer. It is not likely that the soil in Illinois, where the average was 29 bushels, is any richer than that of our Coastal Plains. And we don't believe the Midwesterners are any better farmers.

Nevertheless, as the Soybean Council has observed good cultivation practices with this crop, from planting to harvest, can make the difference between marginal

profits and a handsome income. These practices include chemical and mechanical control of weeds, fertilizing, proper planting dates, insect and disease control, and careful harvesting methods. The Council advises that the best time to attack weeds, a major problem in our area, is early, before the beans are planted. Producers also are reminded that chemical control of weeds is "a supplement to, not a substitute for," good cultivation practice.

But for the best advice on yields, the Council suggests farmers consult State extension specialists, who are the most knowledgeable about local requirements.

If North Carolina farmers can become as expert with soybeans as they have with tobacco, they—and the economy of the whole state—will benefit immeasurably.

Open Letters

from T. B. WILLIFORD

Dear friends,

The funeral directing profession dates back to the Pharaohs in ancient Egypt and requires extensive study and preparation. Today a funeral director often takes periodic post-graduate work to maintain the highest professional standards.

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Respectfully,

T.B. Williford

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Delegates Named To Convention

Two area physicians have been named delegates from the Chowan - Perquimans Medical Society to the House of Delegates of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina that will meet in Asheville this week.

Dr. David O. Wright of Edenton and Dr. T. P. Brinn of Hertford are delegates to the meeting. Dr. L. P. Williams, Jr., and Dr. Edward G. Bond, both of Edenton, are alternates.

Consideration of the most recent advances in the field of medicine is the underlying theme of the 112th annual meeting of the society which gets underway April 30.

The initial session of the House of Delegates, policy making body, will be held at 2 P. M., Sunday. Some 175 delegates from the 77 component county societies are anticipated in attendance at the House of Delegates.

Alumnae Office To Mrs. Cheers

Mrs. Thomas Cheers, Jr., has been elected first vice president of the Duke University Alumnae. Mrs. Cheers and other new officers were honored recently at a three-day Spring Weekend on the Durham campus.

Mrs. Cheers has served one year of a three-year term as a member of the alumnae association board of directors.

Mrs. Paul H. Clyde of Durham is association president and other officers include: Mrs. Frances Briggs of Hollins, Va., chairman of the alumnae council; Mrs. R. K. Harris of Greensboro, second vice president; and Mrs. Anne Garrard, secretary.

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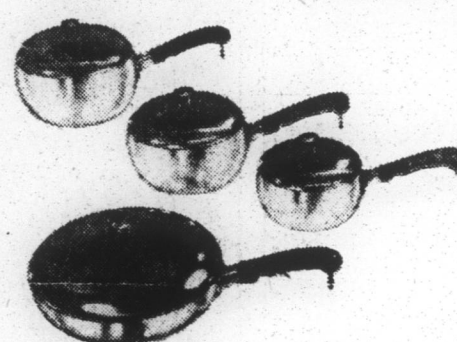
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