



## Report From Washington By Rep. Walter B. Jones

I am happy to resume our unsettled conditions of the "Washington Report" as the public schools, Vietnam, in second session of the 91st session, a sagging farm economy and an increase in the day, January 19. Confronting crime rate. It would be pre- Congress were the same sumptuous to expect all of problems which have existed these to be solved within the for many months, such as the next 12 months, but I do

hope that the Congress will take positive corrective measures to cope with these matters.

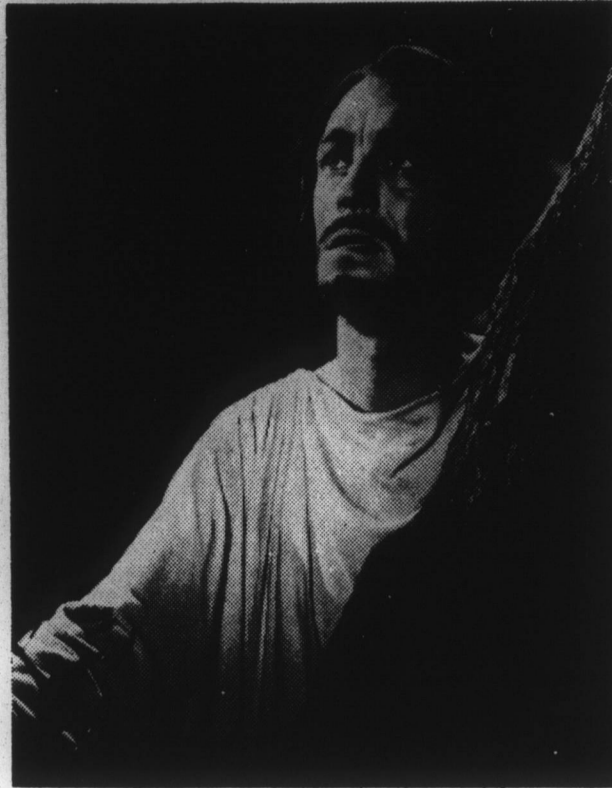
Of interest to the farmers of this nation was the action of Secretary of Agriculture Hardin in announcing the discontinuance of the advanced payments under the feed-grain program. Early in January, I registered a strong protest against this action. I stated to the secretary that many farmers were dependent upon this payment to purchase supplies for next year's crop and that in this day of high interest rates, the withholding of these payments would severely penalize the farmer financially. My protest was based on the following figures: the total diversion payments for the entire First District is \$8,064,423.00. Of this amount, in prior years, the total advanced payments were \$3,870,923.00. At the prevailing rate of interest at approximately eight per cent, based on a six-month loan, this action could possibly cost the farmers of the First District approximately \$155,000.00 in pure interest on borrowed money. And this at a time when the farmer is receiving less of the consumer dollar for his products than he did 20 years ago.

It is difficult to understand the action of the secretary. In any event, as a result of Congressional protest such as mine, he amended the original order to provide that total payments would be made during the month of July. This is some relief, but certainly does not compensate in any measure for the interest some will have to pay through forced borrowing.

The highlight of the week was President Nixon's State of the Union message before a joint session of Congress. These joint sessions are always most impressive. The House and on these official occasions, all foreign embassies are represented, and the Cabinet is invited and many other high ranking civilian and military officials of government are present. These occasions are covered by a large section of the press corps as well as multiple television cameras.

By this time most of you have probably familiarized yourselves with the contents of the speech. To say the least, it was a pretty speech, and the President alluded to many of our national problems such as the war, water and air pollution and among other things, he placed special emphasis on the need to develop our rural areas in order to stop the mass migration from the rural to the urban. My basic reaction to the speech was that it lacked specifics and directives. For example, he called for a balanced budget, yet in the next breath asked for a \$10 billion appropriation to deal with the water pollution problem. Many of the programs he suggested, such as water pollution environmental control, and others, are already being considered by the Democratic Congress.

Another glaring omission was the failure to mention the multiple problems facing the public schools of this nation, particularly in the south.



Max von Sydow as Jesus in "The Greatest Story Ever Told." The George Stevens Production presented in Ultra Panavision and Technicolor is a United Artists release. It will be shown three nights only at 7:30 o'clock Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at Taylor Theater.

### Medicare Insurance Premiums Rise

Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Robert H. Finch announced recently that the voluntary medical insurance premium older people pay for Medicare will be \$5.30 a month for the 12-month period that begins next July 1.

Secretary Finch noted that the present \$4 premium rate, set in December, 1968, is too low to cover costs during the current premium period and that the special Medical Insurance Trust Fund is now drawing on its reserves.

He stressed that failure to increase the premium rate last December, in accordance with advice from Social Security Administration actuaries has made it necessary now, in effect, to promulgate two increases at once. Moreover, the depletion of the trust fund that has occurred because of the inadequate rate has made it necessary.

### Birthdate Required To Get S. S.

Preparation pays off. Many showing the parents' age at people in Chowan County are the time of the child's birth. planning to retire now or These as well as others born before 1913 should give

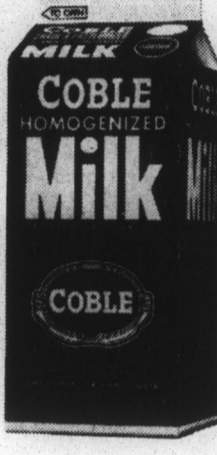
The correct birthdate of some thought to what records anyone applying for social security are around that shows their curity retirement benefits has birthday since birth certifi- to be established by some cates for Chowan County written evidence. The birth- didn't exist until after Oc- date affects not only the tober, 1913.

amount of his benefit but It does pay to be prepared also when the payments start. and one of the best ways is If a public record of birth by contacting the social se- recorded at or near your curity office before coming in birth exists, only the birth to file. By coming in early certificate will be needed. An you can find out what is early baptismal record show- needed to get your check- ing the date of baptism and started as soon as possible. birthdate is the next best The social security office can record.


When one of these two census record early so that documents isn't obtainable, you will have proof of your other records are acceptable. age when it is time for you The oldest record available, to file your application for of course, is best. Some ex- benefits.

amples of other records are a federal census record, family In 1968 North Carolina led Bible, school record, delayed the nation in adult driver birth certificate, insurance education with more than policy, marriage license, and 49,000 individuals completing a child's birth certificate courses in defensive driving.

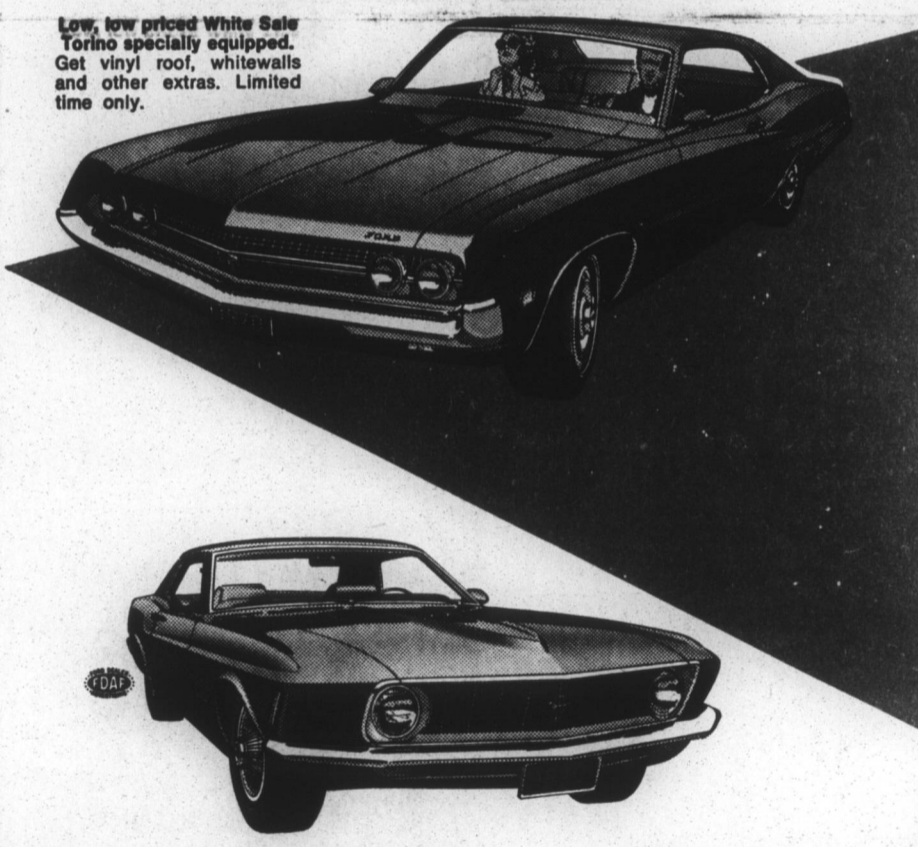
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**NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY**

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The public meeting scheduled for Monday, February 2 at Chowan High School, has been postponed. The postponement will enable the State Department of Public Instruction to gather additional information needed to present to the public. A new date will be announced in the near future.

# BE SURE AND LIST YOUR PROPERTY IN JANUARY

## Only 2 More Penalty Free Days To List Your Property All Property Not Listed By February 1st Will Carry A 10% Penalty