

The Washington Report: Budget Committee Gets Authority To Cut Programs

By Congressman Walter B. Jones

As many of you will recall, several weeks ago Congress passed a rigid and strict budget action for fiscal year 1982. It not only required drastic reductions in all authorizations and appropriations, but it actually gave the Budget committee the right and the power to cut various programs if the Committees with the proper jurisdiction did not act on their own. The Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, of which I am Chairman, was forced to either provide new revenues or make a total reduction of \$207-million for 1982, \$411-million in 1983 and \$551-million in 1984. Inasmuch as this Committee is not considered a "money" Committee as such, as we

have authorizing power only over the merchant marine, the Panama Canal and the Coast Guard, it was most difficult to comply with this request; but, the majority of the Members felt that we should take our own action rather than leave the final decision up to the Budget Committee. Among other things the Budget Committee suggested was that we impose a user's fee on all American vessels travelling on navigable waters. This idea found absolutely no support, and as Chairman of the Committee, I refused to introduce that legislation. At this point, it has not been introduced in our Committee. As a substitute for the so-called user's fee, we proposed an ocean dumping charge of \$5 per ton, which is suppose to raise \$170-

million. Other cuts demanded by the Budget Committee was a reduction in the medical treatment for Public Service Hospitals and the demand that in the future the seamen who require hospitalization pay the prevailing rate. In any event, we did meet the budget deadline in reductions which was required by June 15.

Of interest to many in the First District was the requirement that the Committee on Agriculture reduce its authorization by \$700-million. This was reached by ordering a reduction of 9.2 per cent in all USDA departmental functions with the exception of agriculture research. At this point in time, I am happy to assure all that the tobacco program has not been threatened.

President Reagan a short time ago announced drastic changes in the social security benefits program; for example, reducing the early retirement from 70 per cent to 50 per cent, and also the termination of the survivor's dependents allowance when they reach the age of 18 regardless of whether they continue their education or not. At the present time a dependent can receive the benefits until the age of 22 if he or she continues in college. The reduced early retirement was rejected by all Committees and in all

probability will remain the same as it is. In the case of dependents, those in college now will continue to receive benefits until the age of 22. Also the junior and senior high school classes will be eligible making an extension of approximately 5 to 6 years of this program,

and after that the termination age of 18 will become effective. I am sure that many, including myself, have been critical of HEW and some of their programs, and what must be considered a waste of taxpayers' money. So, the Budget Committee ordered

the Education and Labor Committee, which handles these authorizations, to reduce its budget by \$11-billion. It now appears that certain school aid which has been available through the years will be terminated. This includes funds for the cities and counties who have

been receiving impacted aid monies. It seriously reduces the Head Start program, assistance for the handicapped and the elderly. The student loan program has been seriously reduced, and it is estimated that only over 1 million families will be affected. But here again,

the Committee on Education and Labor felt that they would prefer doing their own cutting rather than leaving it to the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee. With all the reductions in authorization, there will still be a projected '82 deficit of approximately \$40-billion.

Feeder Pig Prices Drop Fifty Cents To Four Dollars

A total of 11,319 feeder pigs were sold on 13 state graded sales during week of June 8, according to the Market News Service of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Prices were mostly 50 cents to \$4 lower per hundred pounds. US 1-2 pigs weighing 40-50 pounds averaged \$83.63 per hundred pound with No. 3s \$70.83; 50-60 pound 1-2s averaged \$75.40, No. 3s \$63.07; 60-70 pound 1-2s \$65.52, No. 3s \$57.81; 70-80 pound 1-2s \$57.30 per hundred pounds with No. 3s \$55.37.

At weekly livestock auctions held within the state the week of June 8, prices for slaughter cows were irregular and feeder calves were steady to \$3 lower. Utility and Commercial cows brought \$36.50 to \$47.50; Good slaughter steers above 800 pounds \$52. to \$60.50; slaughter calves 350-550 with good grade were \$48 to \$59 per hundred. Medium frame Number One muscle steers 400-500 pounds brought \$54 to \$63 per hundred pounds and same grade heifers 400-500 pounds sold \$46 to \$54. Beef type feeder cows with average flesh sold mostly \$38.50 to \$44. Baby calves under 3 weeks of age brought \$45 to \$125 per head. Market hogs brought mostly \$47 to \$50 per hundred weight and 300-600 pound sows \$36.60 to \$44.60.

Corn prices were slightly higher and soybeans sharply lower through Thursday, June 11, compared to the same period of the previous week. No. 2 yellow shelled corn ranged mostly \$3.45 to \$3.70 in the Eastern part of the state and \$3.47 to \$3.73 in the Piedmont. No. 1 yellow soybeans ranged mostly \$7.20 to \$7.53 in the East and \$6.90 to \$7.14 in the Piedmont; No. 2 red winter wheat mostly \$3.40 to \$3.55; No. 2 red oats \$1.75 to \$2.10. New crop prices quoted for harvest delivery corn \$3.23 to \$3.50, soybeans \$7.00 to \$7.23, wheat \$3.34 to \$3.55, oats \$1.95 to \$2.07.

Egg prices were lower on all sizes compared to those of the previous week. Supplies were adequate to fully adequate. Demand was moderate. The North Carolina weighted average

price quoted on June 11 for small lot sales of cartoned grade A eggs delivered to stores was 70.07 cents per dozen for large, Medium 60.10 and Small 48.58.

Northeastern FOB shipping points - Cabbage - 1 1/4 bushel crates, medium, green cabbage brought mostly \$2.50 to \$3; Irish potatoes - US ones, size A, washed 100 pound sacks \$14 and 50 pound sacks \$7.25.

Market hogs at daily cash buying stations about the state \$1.50 to \$2.50 higher this week and ranged mostly \$49 to \$51 per hundred pounds. Sows 300-600 pounds ranged \$31.50 to \$42.

The broiler-fryer market is higher for next week's trading. Supplies are light to

moderate. Demand is good. The North Carolina dock weighted average price is 49.95 cents per pound for less than truckloads picked up at processing plants during the week of June 15.

This week 9.1-million birds were processed in North Carolina with an average live bird weight of 4.01 pounds per bird on June 10.

Heavy type hens were steady this past week. Supplies were moderate and demand moderate. Heavy type hen prices 10 cents per pound at the farm with buyers loading.

At the Faison Produce Auction a light supply of beans and peppers were on offer this week with moderate offerings of

squash and cucumbers. Sales this week with 85 per cent or better, 5-9 bushel crates of yellow brought mostly \$3 to \$3.70, zucchini mostly \$3.95 to \$4.35;

cucumbers - bushel baskets and 1 1-9 bushel crates mostly \$5 to \$6.20; peppers - California Wonder type, medium to large \$7.95 to \$8.80.

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VACATION NOTICE

Computer Users Hold Meeting In Edenton

The Albemarle Area Computer Users Group held their monthly meeting June 9 at the Coach House Inn. Ralph Holder, manager for Dare County Data Processing, conducted the meeting.

A report was given by Mira Hunter from Atlantic Forest Products of Edenton on public relations and the membership drive.

Plans were made for a Family Day Pig Pickin' on July 25 for members and prospective members.

A panel discussion was led by Lenorma Waters of Colburn Lumber and Diane Flowers of Landmark Communications. The panel discussed current user problems in data processing. The largest problem being communication between the EDP department and other co-workers who supply needed input. Also discussed was the need for a training program in this area.

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