

# Washington News Letter

Erwin News Service  
Washington, D. C.

At the moment, things don't look too bright, governmentally speaking, for agriculture—but it's not the fault of North Carolina's members of the House, nor of the state's two leading agricultural lobbyists. And when the badly meat-axed Agriculture Department appropriations bill comes up in the Senate, Tar Heels will again be on hand in an effort to restore some of the cuts made by the House.

North Carolina's entire House delegation—with the lone exception of Rep. Redden, who was in the state while the bill was under consideration—voted down the line against the Republican economy squeeze on agriculture department funds, and Rep. Cooley, a top minority member of the Agriculture Committee, was one of the floor leaders in the opposition fight.

With the help of Tar Heel votes and Cooley's able generalship, the Democrats did manage to restore enough departmental funds to reduce the slash from the 32 percent recommended by the tight-fisted House Appropriations Committee to the 23 percent figure finally approved by the House.

As the battle went on, in the background were Harry B. Caldwell of Greensboro, past master of the N. C. State Grange and a grand master of the art of agricultural lobbying, and R. Flake Shaw, also of Greensboro, executive secretary of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, who does not have to take his hat off to any man, even Caldwell, when it comes to skill in agricultural lobbying.

With the bill moving over to the Senate, North Carolina's share in the fight to restore some of the funds cut out by the House will be led by Senator Hoey, who is a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee. The bill is before the Senate Appropriations Committee—but, undoubtedly, the Agriculture Committee will, as was the case in the House, engage in a bi-partisan effort to recapture some of the House-slashed funds.

Caldwell was here principally to aid J. T. Sanders, legislative counsel of the National Grange, in drawing up a brief to be used before the Senate Appropriations Committee when it holds hearings on the House bill, and when Sanders addresses

that group, some of his words will be Caldwell's.

National recognition came to another North Carolinian recently.

State Commissioner of Labor Forest H. Shuford, a High Pointer who lifted himself from the ranks of labor by hard work and consistent plugging, was named by President Truman as one of a handful of advisors to the United States delegates to the International Labor Conference to be held this month and next in Geneva, Switzerland.

The two official delegates from the United States are Assistant Secretary of Labor David A. Moss and Sen. Elbert D. Thomas of Utah. The list of advisors includes, in addition to Shuford, several prominent figures in American industry and labor. The conference will begin June 19 and wind up July 11.

Another match was struck under the political cauldron recently. Sen. Umstead, whose press relations have been so notoriously poor that his friends have warned him he could not hope for reelection unless they improved, apparently has seen the light.

At any rate, Umstead has named a former newspaperman and public relations expert to his secretarial staff. The junior senator did not say Rankin would become his public relations director—but there is reason to suspect he has been eyeing other senators who have staffmen who are frankly publicists—and who get good results.

The new addition to Umstead's official family is Edward L. Rankin, Jr., of Raleigh and Spencer, who has worked variously for the News and Observer, the Salisbury Evening Post and the Associated Press. For the past year he has been director of public relations for the State Highway and Public Works Commission—and some see the hand of State Highway Chairman A. H. (Sandy) Graham in Rankin's addition to Umstead's staff.

A University graduate, Rankin enlisted in the Navy in 1941 and served throughout the war.

Congressional Jottings: Reps. Ceane and Redden, products of Wake Forest College, were honored guests the other day at a luncheon of Wake Forest alumni living in Washington. Robert H. McNeill, a Washington attorney formerly of



**MEXICAN PRESIDENT** . . . Pres. Miguel Aleman of Mexico, who has been touring America. He warned would-be aggressors that the American republics will stand guard together over hemisphere security. He also consulted Washington about loan to Mexico.

Wilkesboro, arranged the luncheon partly to honor the two congressmen and partly to start the ball rolling toward reorganization of an alumni chapter. . . . Rep. Folger had his picture taken in front of the Capitol, surrounded by seniors from Creedmoor high school, chaperoned by Miss Marjorie Akers, their teacher. . . . Rep. Doughton played host one day recently to Clyde R. Green of Boone, a Republican who opposed Doughton in the November election. Green, a former president of the State Merchants Association, also stopped off to chat with Sen. Umstead. . . . Sen. Hoey set some sort of a record when he made appearances before three different church groups in one Sunday. The frock-coated solon has gained new fame as a lay speaker in the churches of the national capital, as evidenced by his speaking that day to a Sunday school group at a Baptist church, the congregation of a Presbyterian church, and an inter-denominational gathering at a massing of the colors ceremony at the National Episcopal Cathedral; ironically, Hoey, a lifelong Methodist, had no Methodist invitation that particular Sunday. . . . Rep. Durham was haled into court in Washington the other day, but not as a defendant. The long-legged Chapel Hill druggist appeared as a character witness for former Rep. Andrew J. May of Kentucky, now on trial for attempts to defraud the government. Durham served on the old House Military Affairs Committee when May was its chairman.

North Carolina's "extra" congressman made news recently—in fact, his amendment to the veterans' student-subsistence bill made front pages all over the country.

The state's "extra" congressman is Rep. Robert Tripp Ross of New York, a Republican but nevertheless a native of Little Washington, where he "as a boyhood friend of Rep. Bonner. Ross' amendment to the subsistence bill would deny its benefits to Communists or Communist sympathizers.

Pretty Constance Curry, thirteen-year-old Greensboro girl, probably never will forget how to spell ukulele again. Constance, North Carolina's champion school child speller, came to Washington, wearing a four-leaf clover in her shoe for luck, to enter the National Spelling Bee. She

**MRS. SALLIE E. McNEILL**  
Mrs. Sallie E. McNeill, 75, of Jonesboro, Route 1, widow of J. B. McNeill, died Tuesday of last week after a short illness. Mrs. McNeill was a native of Harnett County, daughter of the late McAlcolm and Sarah Patterson McNeill. Her husband died four years ago. Surviving

are five sons, O. R. McNeill of Broadway, R-1; Z. C. McNeill of Jonesboro, R-2; J. T. McNeill of Olivia; L. D. McNeill of Jonesboro, R-2; and B. W. McNeill of High Point; two daughters, Mrs. Edna Moore of Sanford and Mrs. Alton McAthur of Broadway, and a sister, Mrs. Foushee of Sanford; several grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Mount Pisgah Presbyterian Church Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock. The Rev. J. Hoge Smith, pastor of Olivia Presbyterian Church,

and the Rev. R. T. Grissom, pastor of Shallow Well Congregational Christian Church, officiated. Burial was in Mount Pisgah Church cemetery.

**Our Subscribers—**  
**New and Renewed**  
Angler: R. M. Mangum.  
Broadway R-1: Ralph Buchanan.  
Chalybeate Springs: R. G. Smith.  
Dunn: H. B. Taylor.  
Fuquay R-1: Mrs. Davis Harrington.

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT**  
Mr. and Mrs. Hoke Smith, Kipling, announce the birth of a daughter, Kathryn-Hoke, Rex Hospital, Raleigh, May 28. Mrs. Smith is the former Miss Dorothy Abernathy of Fuquay Springs.

## Remember "DAD" ON HIS DAY . . .

as you did Mother on her day




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We have Gifts to make June 15 His red letter day!

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**AFTER 32 YEARS THEY MEET AGAIN . . .** The world knows Glenn L. Martin, industrialist and plane builder, and Mary Pickford, movie producer. At left is a still taken from "The Girl of Yesterday," vintage 1915. Martin, left, is the villain, Mary Pickford, the girl with the curls. At right Glenn Martin and Mary Pickford re-enact the scene, just for old-time's sake. Some of the oldsters will remember Martin as a daredevil barnstorming pilot.

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