

# Washington News Letter

**Erwin News Service**  
Washington, D. C.

Washington, D. C.—The Christmas holidays will offer a welcome relief to the members of the Tar Heel congressional delegation who have been on the firing line in Washington since the special session met November 17.

North Carolina lawmakers and visiting leaders from the state have recently been in the limelight at the Capitol in more ways than one, so here is a brief roundup of the doings:

**POTATOES.**—North Carolina legislators and the State's potato growers made the Department of Agriculture back down in its intention to whack Tar Heel potato acreages next year for the benefit of California. The department rescinded the eight per cent cut in the state's planning goal. This is thanks to Representatives Bonner and Barden and to Senator Umstead who put Agriculture potato officials on the Carpet in a meeting at the Capitol.

**TOBACCO.**—This was a battle, too, that is, the effort to get government graders for the new burley market at West Jefferson. The Agricultural

Department finally backed down here too, and the graders went on the market Monday of this week. There was an undercurrent of charges going around the Capitol that former Congressman Frank Hancock of Oxford, representing the Boone burley market, had tried to persuade his old Agriculture friends to keep the graders away from West Jefferson.

**FERTILIZER.**—The House Agriculture Committee has been delving lately into the fertilizer shortage, with Rep. Harold D. Cooley as one of the members, present and participating. Carl Hicks of Walsenburg, testified about the black marketing of ammonium nitrate in North Carolina. Other Tarheel witnesses included Irvin Morgan of Farmville, a fertilizer manufacturer; W. Ivan Blissett, Grifton; H. B. Nichols, Wilson county; Dr. R. W. Cummings, State College; R. Flake Shaw, of Greensboro; Harry B. Caldwell, of Greensboro; Ronald Hocutt, Johnston county, and Assistant State Commissioner of Agriculture D. S. Coltrane.

The visiting Tarheels urged the committee to do something to increase the production of solid nitro-

gen and to guarantee that North Carolina receive its pro rata share.

**SECESSION.**—Mr. Coltrane testified one reason for the fertilizer shortage was the failure of midwestern ammonium nitrate manufacturers to sell their products in North Carolina.

Rep. Anton Johnson, Illinois Republican, cut in to ask, "What do you think these people have against North Carolina? You're not going to secede, are you?"

Before Coltrane could answer, Rep. Cooley spoke up and said, "We're considering it, and we might if we don't get some fertilizer."

**MORE FUN.**—Mr. Cooley had a lot of fun on the House floor last week, all because Life magazine had a big picture layout of bigwig Republicans honoring Gov. Tom Dewey of New York at a Waldorf-Astoria Hotel banquet in New York. The dinner cost \$12,000. Mr. Dewey led off with the greeting, "Fellow sufferers of the New Deal."

Cooley told the House, "We all know what Mr. Dewey suffered at the hands of the New Deal—defeat for the Presidency—and an examination of the incomes of the fifty Republican industrialists present shows a total of nearly \$8,000,000 in salaries alone—this suffering under the New Deal must be indeed hard to take."

Eighth Congressional District business leaders have told Rep. C. B. Deane they favor the re-establishment of consumer credit controls, and the congressman said in Washington that he agrees with them. He said, however, that while he hoped Congress would take President Truman's advice to re-establish credit controls, particularly on installment buying, that there was little reason to have much hope.

The British Ambassador, Lord Inverchapel, will be the main speaker at a banquet in Statesville the night of Feb. 6 opening the second United Nations forum sponsored by the Statesville Lions Club and the Collegiate Council for the United Nations. The invitation to his lordship was extended by Rep. Robert L. Doughton and by former State Senator Hugh G. Mitchell of Statesville, now with the UN organization. The forum will last three days, Feb. 6-8.

It was happy birthday, and his 70th birthday, for North Carolina's senior Senator, Clyde R. Hoey, one day last week. Mr. Hoey's staff gave him a surprise party, and the staff of Sen. Umstead joined in. Three candles decorated the table in the Hoey office, and Sen. Umstead said they symbolized Hoey's service in the House, as Governor and as Senator. Sen. Hoey said he felt as fit as a fiddle.

A pretty young brunette from Harnett county and the UNC School of Journalism, as well as the UNC News Bureau, has become a familiar figure in the Senate and House cloakroom. She is Miss Millie Johnson of Coats, now a correspondent at the Capitol for the United States News.

Miss Johnson was graduated from "Skipper" Oscar Coffin's Journalism classes and Bob Madry's news bureau back in April 1946. She came to Washington on a dare, she says. At the time of her graduation, Miss Johnson had plenty of jobs in view, what with the war still on. A friend

at Carolina told her he bet she could not land a job in Washington. It turned out to be a dare instead of a bet.

The rest of the story is history. The pretty blue-eyed miss came to Washington and she won a job from Publisher David Lawrence of the U. S. News.

Miss Johnson is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jonah E. Johnson of

Coats. Her father is a farmer in Harnett county.

A prominent member of the staff of Rep. Graham A. Barden has quit his job. In short, Joe Junior doesn't work there any more. Joe Junior, as a matter of fact, didn't just quit—he "got quit."

Secretaries Tom McGee of Mount Olive and Jeanette Harrison of New

Bern reported Joe Junior's health had declined, and as a result they had to throw him in the Potomac River where presumably he is recovering from whatever ailed him.

Joe Junior, you might remember, is the last of the 40 baby diamond back terrapins Dr. H. F. Prytherch of Beaufort sent Barden last spring as a present. Dr. Prytherch is head of the Federal fisheries laboratory

at Beaufort.

In recent weeks Joe began to change color, and he wasn't feeling well. It is now hoped he has been rejuvenated by the waters of the Potomac.

**CARD OF THANKS**

Paul H. Phelps wishes to thank his friends for flowers, cards and visits during his illness.

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