

EDITORIALS:

HIGH YIELD AND LOW PRICES?

The experience that Brunswick county farmers went through 20 years ago in the growing and selling of tobacco is the best example we can cite in recommending the continuing of controls over such production. When acreage and yield rise sharply the second of two successive years and the market price drops over seven cents per pound, then the time is ripe for some changes. That is what took place in 1938-39.

If every farmer would see the light and agree to voluntary reduction in the volume planted, and would keep the agreement, then the matter of voting on quotas and having his acreage checked to see that he abides by the allotment, would not be necessary. But farmers are people and there are people who yield only to command.

Accepting this assertion, we urgently recommend that every tobacco grower go to his voting place December 12 and cast his ballot in favor of controls.

If two thirds of the voters approve quotas, tobacco will be supported at 90 per cent of parity for the next three years. If the vote fails, support ends. Then it will be every farmer for himself.

While we can't forecast what would happen, it is likely that poundage would go up and prices down.

We can't afford this. We have already found by past experience that supply and demand can work to the farmer's disadvantage. The one must be held in balance with the other if we are to continue to grow tobacco at a profit.

SPENDING GAINS MOMENTUM

Some weeks ago Secretary of Commerce Luther Hodges told Americans they must spend more to keep the nation's economy healthy. A little while later, Mr. Hodges said industry should produce more at less cost through more intensive research if the country is to keep pace with competition from abroad.

Now Mr. Hodges, by his own forecast, seems to be getting his wish gratified: spending is on the uptrend.

He predicted the other day that sales in November and December would be about five per cent above that of the same period last year. Included in the five per cent increase is a decided in-

crease in consumer buying.

The Secretary said a part of the encouraging picture results from a trade exhibit in Lima, Peru, that cost \$269,000 but brought sales of some \$3.8 million.

To further boost business, Mr. Hodges said plans are in motion to establish a Department of Commerce field office in Honolulu, the first in this the 50th state in the Union.

Be not concerned about spending, Mr. Secretary. Americans, generally, barely give their paychecks time to get warm in the wallet. Their wants far outstrip their means. Their chief worry is not having enough to spend as they would like.

LEADERS DIFFER ON GRAIN PROGRAM

The National Farmers Union and the American Farm Bureau Federation are at opposite ends on the merits of the 1961 feed grain program.

While the one asserts that the program has increased farm income and reduced farm program costs, the other charges that the program has increased costs.

Mr. James G. Patton, president of NFU, says the feed grain promotion stepped up farm income some \$500,000 and that, added to increased support prices on some commodities, plus diversion payments, may boost the net income this year to \$1 billion to the farmer. Mr. Patton, however, was not specific about how the costs were reduced.

Mr. Charles B. Shuman, president of NFBF, declares that the program has imposed a billion-dollar loss on American people. It is his view that the Department of Agriculture claim of success for the program is nothing but pro-

paganda. He said farmers used more fertilizer on the acres they did plant in corn and reaped a large yield while many planted soybeans the support price of which was increased. As a result, he said, there is a great surplus of soybeans costing the people additional millions.

The USDA contends that farmers would have produced more corn without the feed grain program, so it holds that the program succeeded as it was intended. Mr. Shuman says this is a wrong-way success story in the light of a billion-dollar cost to reduce feed grain supply by five per cent.

Just who is right in the matter is difficult to ascertain. Regulations may change or alter economic conditions, generally, but farmers and manufacturers alike will find ways to increase yields and production regulations notwithstanding.

MR. SAM

The Christian Science Monitor

The second most powerful office in the United States is vacant today. The Speaker's chair in the House of Representatives will be filled in due course. But the place of Sam Rayburn will not be filled—his place in the affections of Americans and in the operation of congressional government.

This is so not merely because he served in Congress during more than one-fourth of the nation's history. Nor because his years as Speaker far exceeded any other man's. But because he was a certain kind of man, the product of times and conditions that will not be repeated.

Mr. Rayburn's father fought in the Confederate Army. He grew up in a Texas that was closer to the heroes of the Alamo than to the oil millionaires. He combined the South's heritage of courtly honor and public service with the simple virtues of the West's rug-

ged frontier. The author of the New Frontier perceptively remarked, "They don't make them like that any more."

Anyone wishing to understand the intangibles which make the American system work could do no better than study Mr. Sam's work in the House. He followed Speakers who had been called bosses. Technically he wielded less power, although still having a decisive influence in the selection of committees and in parliamentary maneuvers.

But the secret of his power lay even more in individual qualities—integrity, fairness, knowledge, forbearance with opponents, patience with youthful pupils in his legislative school, and the resiliency to deal with changing times. He seldom spoke, but when he did the nation listened to good sense. His patriotism and kindness ("I haven't time to hate anybody") bridged party conflicts.

Speaker Rayburn had a key role in reconciling the South to much of the New Deal and in persuading patriots that isolationism was not enough.

Other congressional leaders must express these qualities in their own individual ways. They cannot hope to fill his niche; they can only aspire to render service equally great.

ONE WAY

We like the one about the Texas village that went big city and made its streets one-way streets. Well, everybody went out of town one day and they were not able to get back in.

Many a life of the party is a wash-out at home.

"Sorry, Fellas! Maybe The Doctor Will See You Next Time!"



Time and Tide

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port harbor, when three ships coming in, two going out, plus three dead ships headed for the lay-up basin, all were forced to anchor here until the veil lifted.

Ten years ago this week our lead story had to do with the introduction of safety features in construction at Sunny Point. Safety was—and still is—the watchword up there. The fund drive was on for money with which to finance the renovation job at Dasher Memorial Hospital, with \$10,000 being the goal for local matching funds. Trustees of the hospital were leading the way.

Chairman of the State Highway Commission and a group of other officials of that organization had visited Southport and had made a trip across the Cape Fear River to Carolina Beach—roughly following one of the proposed routes for a ferry crossing. There was a report that "hog rustlers" were at work in the county; the the Holiday House that year was being held at the Presbyterian Church Educational Building, back in the days when that church was situated on Caswell Avenue.

A "Bald Head Island Wild Animal Hunt" was a front page headline in our edition for December 12, 1956. The story explained that the current crop of Hampshire—being increasingly referred to as "Wild Boars"—was not the first big game to inhabit the tropical island off Southport. There was a headline, too, telling that king mackerel were still being caught in large numbers off Southport.

There had been another fishing development here, red snapper fishing, and a New Jersey boat and crew had brought in a big catch of these beautiful fish during the preceding week. James C. Bowman, Southport attorney, had been elected president of the Southeastern North Carolina Beach Association.

IMPORTANT VOTE

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ing the decisions that affect us. "I want to encourage all eligible farmers in Brunswick County to vote in the referendum, and let's try to have 100 percent participation."

'OLD-FASHIONED'

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will include wreaths, trees, angels, card displays, edible decorations, religious arrangements, gold or silver arrangements, decorations which would appeal to children, tiered arrangements, kitchen arrangements, candles, living plants and wrappings.

A cordial invitation is extended to all who will come, and it is hoped that out-of-town visitors will find it convenient to attend.

MEMBERS OF PORTS

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take care of expanding volume of shipping, it is only proper that Southport receive consideration along with our other ports. It is the purpose and the duty of this committee to make recommendations to the Ports Authority and the Governor as to the ways in which the very excellent natural facilities of Southport can be developed so as to best serve the interests of North Carolina.

Of particular interest to the visiting members of the State Ports Authority is the report of the Rivers and Harbors engineers released late in November and recommending the dredging of a 40-foot channel from the Cape Fear River bar to a natural, deep-water basin lying within the

Southport harbor.

One factor to which prime consideration was given was the prospect of super tankers being able to come into Southport to discharge cargo, whether by off-loading into petroleum barges or by pumping into storage tanks ashore there is no other port in North Carolina which affords a channel of 40-foot depth.

While they were in Southport Chairman Latham and Cass heard proposals for specific projects, including a small boat terminal. While this has not been ruled as a possibility, it was the thinking of the two Ports Authority members that the broader possibilities for development in the Southport harbor will require more study with the object of entering into a development program on a long-range basis.

SUPERIOR COURT

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ment in the cases of Alice Mae Gore, Mary Gore and Bryant vs Davis.

The case of Sledge vs Miller was tried, but final judgment had not been handed down Tuesday afternoon.

Divorces were granted in the cases of Hollis vs Hollis and Clemmons vs Clemmons and Cannon vs Cannon.

Any cases not reached this week will be tried next week.

INJURED SEAMAN

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ditions with all engines performing at peak efficiency. The successful trial speed run is the result of nine months of work by the crew in an effort

to show that she is capable of performing as she should perform. With her four 600-hp Cummins engines, it is believed that the 303 has more power than many cutters.

BUTLER ELECTED

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cluded awarding a contract for painting and repair at the Brunswick County Boarding Home, and this contract went to Cecil Hewett for \$1,289.90.

Tax listers were appointed by the board and they are as follows: Northwest, E. W. Aycock; Town Creek, Raymond Barr; Smithville, Carl Ward; Lockwoods Folly, Kenneth Hewett; Shallotte, J. B. Ward, Jr.; and Waccamaw, Odell Jenrette.

Not Exactly News

There are six members of the American Camellia Society in Southport—and all of them are men. They include Dr. C. A. Graham, Hulan Watts, C. D. Pickrell, Harry Sell, Hubert Livingston and E. J. Prevatte. . . . Nobody remembers five more beautiful days than Friday through Tuesday here in Southport. Saturday when we had a long distance call from Martin Burt in Clinton, Ohio, the first thing he asked about was the weather, and we appreciated the question. It gave us a chance to brag! He owns property here and plans to move to Southport when he retires.

We received a couple of interesting cards from overseas during the past week. One was from Bill Houghton, now stationed in France, and he had just visited Luxembourg. There was a "P.S. Merry Xmas." The other came from Joe Loughlin, who is visiting his daughter, Mrs. Don Williams, and her family in Hawaii, and while that no longer is foreign country, it still seems far, far away. . . . Speaking of Bill Houghton's P.S., this week we received a check from Dan L. Walker, Long Beach city manager, and in addition to payment for services rendered it also bore an early "Christmas Greeting." This latter in no way offended us—so long as the original document got, by Banker Prince O'Brien.

On the way to Whiteville this morning we had one of the most enjoyable radio sessions we have experienced recently. We were listening to WMFD and the Eric Bruton Show when he played a Jerry Gray recording of a medley of old tunes. Not only was the stimulated nostalgia pleasant, but we were reminded that Sgt. Jerry Gray was a Glenn Miller arranger during World War II—and a little of that influence still is distinguishable. All in all, it was good listening. . . . The weather took a little turn for the worse this morning, but there should still be some days for good offshore fishing, just like Mrs. Hulan Watts said.

The gas war has spread all the way to the coast. Prices for regular gasoline reached its lowest point in years here this week when one station is selling it at 22.9. This battle is raging even more bitterly out on U.S. 17 this morning where you can fill up with one of the standard brand regulars for as low as 19.9-cents. Five gallons of gasoline for a dollar! It's been a day since that has been possible. . . . Speaking of Highway No. 17 reminds us of the simulated speed trap in front of the residence of Patrolman W. H. Morgan near Supply. The road on both sides of the twin wires is marked with skidding tires.

Now that leaves are falling, mistletoe, the kissing greenery, is more in evidence. It would be a hard matter to find it in greater abundance than it grows in the Waccamaw River swamp. . . . We still have to see our first home Christmas decoration of the season, but since this is only December 6, we suppose the situation really is not desperate.

This week we are plugging a picture which will be shown next Tuesday at the Amuzi here in Southport, and Manager E. L. Furlless will not make a cent from it, no matter how well it draws. The feature is "Perfect Purlough," with Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh, and the occasion will be the local theatre's cooperation with the Will Rogers Memorial. All proceeds, not even deducting for operating expenses, will go to this cause. . . . "Come September" is the feature Thursday-Friday-Saturday at Holiday Drive-In, Shallotte. . . . Make plans to bring the kids to see the Christmas parade in Southport Monday night. It may not be the biggest one you ever see, but it is a beginning of something that can grow.

Listing will begin the first week in January.

The commissioners approved a request that the State Highway Commission take over and main-

tain a newly constructed road leading from U. S. Highway No. 17 to the entrance to Ocean Isle Beach.

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