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An Editorial

The Cross = Examination

Question—You say you live near Germanton?
Answer—That's what I said.

Q—Big shot in that bailiwick. ain't you?

A—Beg your pardon?

Q—I mean you are the chief guy in the neighborhood, a successful farmer, a large landowner, a religious and political leader, and a fellow the boys have to see before they put anything across? Am I right?

A—I have never set myself up like that.

Q—Why, haven't you boasted that you were the bear-cat in at the kill when the "late lamented" crop control became a "corpse," and you threatened that if the majority who voted for control should succeed in its resurrection program you would give them a worse dose next December?

A—We will do it, too.

Q—You can't tolerate majority rule, can you?

A—The majority that voted for crop control were misguided, in my opinion.

Q—Just when did you first discover "control" was such a fraud?

A—I did not say it was a fraud.

Q—You said it was an imaginary mess of potage—isn't that deceit and fraud?

A—You are saying it.

Q—And that it was managed by a bunch of politicians in Washington who have practically bankrupted the government—didn't you say that?

A—Yes, and I reiterate it. After 3 years under it I saw that honest producers got no beneficial results.

Q—What do you mean by "honest producers"—does that imply that those farmers who favor crop control are dishonest?

A—You have my newspaper articles, answer the question yourself.

Q—Please define a "dishonest producer."

A—I meant those who claim benefits under control that we have not received.

Q—And you charge that those farmers who claim benefits under crop control are dishonest?

A—I have not said it in those words.

Q—Do you claim to be fair in your statements?

A—I certainly do.

Q—Then please see if you are able to reconcile your claims and your attitude with the following figures sent out by the N. C. Extension Service at State College, Raleigh, which show:

AVERAGE RECEIVED BY N. C. FARMERS FROM TOBACCO UNDER NO CONTROL:

Year 1928	18.9
Year 1929	18.0
Year 1930	12.0
Year 1931	8.4
Year 1932	11.6

AVERAGE RECEIVED BY N. C. FARMERS FROM TOBACCO UNDER CONTROL:

Year 1933	15.3
Year 1934	27.3
Year 1935	20.0
Year 1936	22.1
Year 1937	23.0

Do these figures not establish that for the above five years under NO control the farmers got an average of 13.7, while for the five years since the government has aided the farmers with crop programs, they received an average of 21.7?

A—I stated that in 1926, 1927 and 1928 I received an average of 28 cents, while in 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932 and 1933 I received an average of only 13 cents.

Q—Do you happen to have this evidence with you?

A—No, but I can produce the figures from my records.

Judge—"Sheriff, bring that man back thar up here before my Honor". (The Sheriff escorts up a trembling prisoner.) "Whadda you mean kicking my dog?" "Your Honor, I was asleep." "Two dollars and the cost, take him to jail. Go ahead, boys."

Q—You are one of the de luxe kind of farmers in Stokes, aren't you?

A—Do which?

Q—I mean you are a farmer who produces tobacco of a type which commands fancy prices on the markets, much higher than anybody's else, due to your superior judgment and skill. Is that correct?

A—I have never made any such exaggerated claims.

Q—Don't you claim that you can get a bigger price than the State's average by 7 or 8 cents?

A—I deny it.

Q—How much did you claim in your exhaustive discourse in the papers the other day that you got in 1926, 1927 and 1928?

A—I said I got 28 cents average.

Q—Are you as inaccurate in your crop figures as you are in your statements about the great government debt?

A—I have not erred in my statement about the government debt. It is 45 billions under this administration, which is bankrupting the nation.

Q—You declare that you got 28 cents average in the years 1926, 1927 and 1928. Please tell us how you justify this claim with the State's average, which the North Carolina crop service station reports as follows:

For 1926	24.9
For 1927	21.0
For 1928	19.1

This gives the State's average at 21.6, would it not, while you got 28. Is this on account of your de luxe methods in farming? Please explain.

Opposing Lawyer—"Your Honor, my client wants a drink of water."

Judge—"Sheriff, bring the witness some water. Bring me a drink, too. Git a whole bucketful."

Q—Now on account of your bitterness toward crop control, you have been charged with political prejudice, have you not?

A—Yes, by some small newspapers like the Danbury Reporter.

Q—Why did you make the assertion in your newspaper articles that the benefits which farmers have failed to receive under crop control, happened "under the present administration?"

A—I may have said that.

Q—But I asked you why?

A—Do which?

Q—Do nothing, except answer my plain question. Does not the expression "the present administration" betray the political animus you feel against the efforts made by the government to help the farmer through the control of production?

A—I don't know that it does.

Q—Since you yourself even in your first articles put the argument largely on political grounds, I ask you if you did not make an important political blunder when you designated the years under which you say you received only 13 cents average?

A—I fail to comprehend your drift.

Q—I will try to make it clearer. Has it occurred to you that the 13 cents small average was received by you under Hoover years?

A—I was not considering politics.

Q—But you do consider politics?

A—Not in business.

Q—Don't you consider this tremendously vital tobacco situation as business?

A—Oh, of course I do that.

Q—Then why do you turn your economical discussions in the papers to a condemnation of the "present administration," and almost lose your temper in flaying the New Deal?

A—My critics are responsible for that.

Q—I ask you if in your first article in a Winston paper in your expressions of joy over the "corpse" of control in Stokes county, that instead of a dispassionate non-partisan discussion of an economical question, that you used a lot of your space to excoriate the "gang of politicians in Washington who have practically bankrupted the government." Now didn't you do that, showing yourself to be political-minded in this thing, when nobody had said anything about politics? Please answer, yes or no.

A—I do say the government is practically bankrupted.

Q—Yes and most of your long-winded arguments are aimed to show the iniquities of the New Deal—ain't that so?

A—I do contend that it is an iniquity.

Q—Why?

A—Because, I reiterate that the bunch of politicians have practically bankrupted the government.

Q—How?

A—They are handing out the people's hard-earned tax money in wasteful extravagance and mismanagement, and corruption.

Q—Do you love chocolate pie?

A—Do which?

Q—Do nothing, only answer my question.

A—I think your question is silly.

Q—Do you love chocolate pie?

A—Sure, do you?

Q—You charge corruption and mismanagement and wasteful extravagance on the part of the government. But some of these hand-outs taste like chocolate pie, don't they?

A—What do you mean?

Q—I mean your part of the hand-outs.

Opposing Lawyer—"Your Honor, I protest at the flippancy and the irrelevancy of the counsel's questions, and enter my objection."

Questioner—"May it please the court, the art and the finesse required to twist indispensable testimony from a prejudiced witness is sometimes as abstruse as the Einstein theory. I pray you, can we go on with this ride?"

Judge—"I'll see what the law is on that fellow Ironstine. I may send him to jail. You fellows hurry up, I've got six more cases to try tonight. Sheriff, bring me some matches, this damned cigar won't stay lit."

Q—How many government parity checks have you received?

A—Do which?

Q—Do that which I have asked you. Has not the corrupt and wasteful crop administration at Washington sent you some lithographed chromos good at the bank, and which you put down in your jeans? Please answer yes or no?

A—Of course, like others I have been paid a small amount in parity adjustment, and have a perfect right to it.

Q—Is it taxed money?

A—I have never said so.

Q—How much did you get of the hand-outs?

A—About \$310.17, if my memory serves me.

(Continued on 2nd Page.)