

# Cooley Charges FSA Is Defiant Of Acts Passed By Congress

### Congressman Defends Investigation and Reviews Operations of Farm Agency

Congressman Harold D. Cooley, of the fourth district, issued from Washington today a lengthy defense of the investigation into the Farm Security Administration, which he proposed, out of which inquiry he is chairman. Mr. Cooley charged certain members of the House with "wanton and malicious" attacks on the agency, and said that the "defiant" attitude of the agency has been a "major cause" of the congressional investigation which he recently authorized.

Mr. Cooley declared he has been a "constant friend of many of the programs which have been administered by this agency," but has "not been willing to approve all of its activities, at least a few of which have been pursued in direct violation of the letter, spirit and intent of acts of Congress under which the agency has operated." It was the purpose of determining how far would the administration have gone that he proposed the investigation, and that as chairman of the select committee in charge he has "every reason to believe that a constructive job will be done."

tion in a manner which was never contemplated by those responsible for its creation, and in direct violation of the law which created it."

**Some Projects Failures.**

Cooley charged that the FSA inherited from the old Resettlement Administration and other agencies which had been created by executive orders "many projects which were already in great disrepute." Projects inherited to were undertaken under authority given President Roosevelt in relief acts passed in the early days of the administration, "and most of these projects have been dismal failures." Many of them, he said, never should have been launched and should be immediately liquidated.

Congress in 1937 directed liquidation of the projects and disapproval of additional activities, such as Resettlement in West Virginia, Congress also directed the FSA "to cease operation of cooperative farm projects," and also to change policies of acquisition and operation of non-profits, and to make additional purchases. Cooley said in his statement, "It is his belief, 'those responsible for the administration of Farm Security and title of no attempt to force it to liquidate from Congress, and a bill of liquidating and other acts passed since that time."

**Government Ownership.**

"Under the present policies of government ownership of land, the FSA, Cooley said, has purchased large tracts of farm land and has some 100,000 acres of property to be returned to the owners as soon as possible. The government would

share with the farm tenant operators the property rights, both real and personal, he charged, adding that "certainly this cannot mean home ownership."

"The courts of all American jurisdictions look with favor upon the fee simple ownership of property," but FSA administrators "obviously favor government ownership of property rather than fee simple ownership, which has been traditional in America." And "a constant refusal of officials in charge, contrary to the wishes of Congress in this regard has greatly contributed to the present unpopularity of the FSA."

**Text of Statement.**

Following is the complete text of the statement from the office of Congressman Cooley:

**Insults Constructive.**

The investigation of the Farm Security Administration, and only should be, but will be, constructive. The fact that I participated in the preparation, presentation and passage of all legislation pertaining to the Farm Security Administration, and actively supported every application which has been made by this agency and the agencies connected with it, is administering, should be concerning evidence of my intention for the agency and for the tenant farmers of the nation whom I am seeking to serve. I had the pleasure of discussing the great problem of farm tenancy with Mr. Roosevelt, at a White House conference, during the time that the bill was being considered by the House committee of Agriculture, of which I am a member. The "body" was "dead" in that committee and the members of our committee have been its "resurrectors." The present temporary authorization of the Farm Security Administration has been brought about by a almost complete misapprehension of the intent and purpose of the agency which was created, and which have inspired distrust and suspicion, and have constantly sought to destroy the very work which is being done by the agency to give a better life and contact to the working farmer and sharecroppers of America. Unfortunately, the Farm Security Administration inherited from the Resettlement Administration and other agencies, when it was created by executive orders, many projects which were already in great disrepute. The projects inherited to were undertaken and created pursuant to authority given to the President in relief acts passed in the early days of this administration, and most of these projects have been dismal failures. Many of the experiments referred to should never have been undertaken and in my opinion should be immediately and speedily liquidated.

**Congress Disappointed.**

Congress, as far back as 1937, directed that the projects above referred to be liquidated and expressed its disapproval of the existing and proposed policies of the agency. In North Carolina, Piedmont, in West Virginia, Piedmont, in North Carolina, Lake Okechobee, in Florida, in Tennessee, and other similar projects throughout the country. Congress also directed the Farm Security Administration to cease the operation of cooperative farm projects and to otherwise change policies regarding the ownership and operation of the properties involved, and further provided that additional real property should not be purchased and subdivided as had formerly been done by the Resettlement Administration.

Unfortunately, those responsible for the administration of Farm Security and title of no attempt to force it to liquidate from Congress, and a bill of liquidating and other acts passed since that time. Congress intended to encourage home ownership and to assist working farmers in becoming home owners. The purpose of the act and its intent to give to the tenant farmer a home in ownership of his own, and to place the title of the land in actual home ownership, rather than in the mere occupancy of farm property.

**Large Tracts Bought.**

Quite contrary to this policy the Farm Security Administration, under its own set policies of government ownership of land has purchased large tracts of farm land and has in some instances leased the property to individuals for as long as twenty-nine years. The occupants of the property would be under strict governmental supervision and would operate with each of the lessees, having a community of interests in property rights, both real and personal, including work, machinery and equipment used in connection with the farming operations, and each sharing in the net proceeds derived from the sale of farm commodities produced. Certainly this cannot mean home ownership.

In an editorial which appeared in the "Puerto Rico World-Journal," on May 22, 1941, Dr. George Mitchell, assistant administrator, Farm Security Administration, who was then visiting in San Juan, is quoted as having said: "This fee simple ownership of property is the greatest detriment to our national prosperity." The editorial states that Dr. Mitchell advocates a long lease tenure of farm land, subject to cancellation when it is demonstrated that the lessee is improperly using the land. Almost similar views have been expressed by other Farm Security Administration officials. Such views are in direct conflict with the intent of Congress and with the ancient land policy of this nation. The courts of all American jurisdictions look with favor upon the fee simple ownership of property. In other words, the administrators of the Farm Security Administration obviously favor government ownership of property rather than fee simple ownership, which has been traditional in America. We, on the other hand, did not want farm tenants to become mere wards or puppets of the government, but rather to be permitted to enjoy the pride and security of home ownership. A constant refusal of the officials in charge to comply with the wishes of Congress in this regard has greatly contributed to the present unpopularity of the Farm Security Administration.

**Authority Ignored.**

By the passage of the Bankhead-

Jones Tenant Purchase Act in 1937, we authorized the creation in the Department of Agriculture of a corporation to be known as the Farmers Home Corporation, and which every reason to believe that such a corporation would be immediately created upon the passage of the bill, but until this date no such corporation has been created or permitted to function.

I shall not attempt to criticize the many activities of the Farm Security Administration which have been directed at this agency by the government, but I do believe that the present attitude of the agency is defiant of the acts of Congress. The investigation which I am conducting will make a diligent effort to separate the facts from the bias and to obtain accurate information regarding all of the activities and actions of the agency and its administrators.

As a member of the committee which drafted the Farm Security Act, I am confident that the agency is not doing its job. The fact that I participated in the preparation, presentation and passage of all legislation pertaining to the Farm Security Administration, and actively supported every application which has been made by this agency and the agencies connected with it, is administering, should be concerning evidence of my intention for the agency and for the tenant farmers of the nation whom I am seeking to serve. I had the pleasure of discussing the great problem of farm tenancy with Mr. Roosevelt, at a White House conference, during the time that the bill was being considered by the House committee of Agriculture, of which I am a member. The "body" was "dead" in that committee and the members of our committee have been its "resurrectors." The present temporary authorization of the Farm Security Administration has been brought about by a almost complete misapprehension of the intent and purpose of the agency which was created, and which have inspired distrust and suspicion, and have constantly sought to destroy the very work which is being done by the agency to give a better life and contact to the working farmer and sharecroppers of America. Unfortunately, the Farm Security Administration inherited from the Resettlement Administration and other agencies, when it was created by executive orders, many projects which were already in great disrepute. The projects inherited to were undertaken and created pursuant to authority given to the President in relief acts passed in the early days of this administration, and most of these projects have been dismal failures. Many of the experiments referred to should never have been undertaken and in my opinion should be immediately and speedily liquidated.

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facts sought by the investigation, the committee will act as expeditiously as the circumstances will permit.

Regional Farm Forester H. E. Blanchard of N. C. State College recently reported: "The swamps are full of water, the ridges full of fire; labor's gone to the shipyards, and the farmer's full of fire."

**FORECLOSURE SALE.**

By virtue of the power contained in that Deed of Trust executed by J. O. Howell to the undersigned Trustee under date of the 17th day of December 1934, which Deed in Trust is recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Vance County in Book 172 at page 492.

Default having been made in the payment of the Note therein secured and on the request of the holder of said Note I will on Monday the 17th day of May 1943 at 12:00 o'clock noon at the Court House door in Vance County, offer for sale and sell at Public Auction for cash the undivided interest of the said J. O. Howell in the following described property: Lot on Rockspring Street adjoining Laura Williamson, Henry Peoples, being the lot bought by J. O. Howell from W. W. Parker in 1932. It is my undivided one-fourth interest in and to that certain lot or parcel of land situated in Henderson, N. C. fronting on Rock Spring Street 118 1-2 feet and running along the line of William Merriman (in 1903) 125 feet to John W. Vaughan's line (in 1903) thence along John W. Vaughan's line 102 feet to Claude Hunter's line (in 1903) thence along Hunter's line 150 feet to the beginning.

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This the 8th day of April, 1943  
JOEL T. CHEATHAM,  
Trustee.

Pittman, Bridges & Hicks,  
Attorneys.  
9-16-23-30

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This the 16th day of April, 1943.  
JASPER B. HICKS,  
Trustee.

16-23-36-7

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Wise mothers know their whole family must have Vitamins . . . for vim and vigor . . . and that is the reasons man insist on

**BAMBY ENRICHED BREAD**

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**16 OZ. CAN - 16 POINTS**

**Iona Peas . . . 13c**

**12 OZ. CAN - 8 BLUE POINTS**

**Niblets BRAND CORN 2 12oz. Cans 25c**

**A-P Variety BREADS**

**VEGETARIAN WHITE - RAISIN EYE-CRACKED WHEAT 10c**

**18 OZ. CAN - 8 BLUE POINTS**

**Cocktail . . . 14c**

**12 OZ. CAN - 13 BLUE POINTS**

**JUICE . . . 11c**

**8 RED POINTS PER LB.**

**CHEESE . . lb. 35c**

**5 LBS. 30c**

**2 1/2 LB. BAGS**

**Bekar Coffee 2 51c**

**12 SELF RISING 83c**

**24 SELF RISING \$1.61**

**Turnip Greens lb. 15c**

**Green Beans lb. 29c**

**Potatoes . 5 lbs. 25c**

**Green Cabbage lb. 10c**

**Carrots . 2 lbs. 17c**

**TOMATOES - - - lb. 29c**

**Lettuce . 2 for 29c**

**Oranges . . doz. 28c**

**Asparagus . . 39c**

**Hams . . . lb. 35c**

**Souerkraut . lb. 8c**

**Fat Back . . lb. 19c**

**Black Bass . . lb. 17c**

**Roe Shad . . lb. 35c**

**For Mayor**

I am seeking re-election as Mayor of Henderson, subject to the City Election to be held May 4th, 1943, on the basis of the record which I have made as Mayor of Henderson.

Your vote and support will be deeply appreciated.

**Henry T. Powell**