

President Delivers Annual Message To The 76th Congress

Great Activity In Nation's Capital As Congress Starts Work

Pleading for the continuance and a greater support of three institutions—religion, democracy and international good faith—President Roosevelt addressed the 76th Congress Wednesday, the two major highlights of the message centering around defense "for democracy's sake" and spending to reach an eighty billion dollar economy.

"It has become increasingly clear that peace is not assured," the chief executive said, and then in a momentous message spread to the far reaches of the world and in several languages, he declared that this nation must be able and ready to defend and maintain its freedom against threats of the dictator which arises elsewhere.

Mr. Roosevelt spoke in broad terms of affairs both at home and abroad, but throughout his address he held to the keynote of "democracy."

A few of the highlights of the President's message:

"No nation can be safe in its will to peace so long as any other powerful nation refuses to settle its grievances at the council table.

"We can and should avoid any action, or lack of action which will encourage, assist or build up an aggressor.

"We have our difficulties—but we are a wiser and tougher nation than we were in 1929 or 1932.

"And we still intend to do our own thinking.

"We must have armed forces and defenses strong enough to ward off sudden attack against strategic positions and key facilities.

"We have learned that survival cannot be guaranteed by arming after the attack begins—for there is new range and speed to offense.

"Even a nation well armed and well organized may, after a period of time, meet defeat if it is unnerved by self-distrust, endangered by class prejudice, by dissension between capital and labor, by false economy and by other unsolved social problems.

"Our nation's program of social and economic reform is a part of defense as basic as armaments themselves."

The message received a varied comment, the remarks being identified mostly by party lines.

Following the President's message, events have come thick and fast. The Congress is breaking records in the introduction of new bills. It is evident that with few exceptions, the Democrats will draw their lines tighter to combat the strengthened Republican ranks.

Professor Felix Frankfurter was named yesterday to succeed Justice Benjamin Cardozo on the Supreme Court bench.

James P. Pope, former United States Senator from Idaho who spoke in Ahoakie about a year ago, was named to the Tennessee Valley Authority board.

Yesterday, the President sent his annual budget message to the Congress, asking for nine billions to carry on the activities of the government during the next fiscal year.

A request for a deficiency appropriation of 875 million was made to prevent a shutdown later this month. The President asks about two and one-quarter billion for relief-recovery in the new fiscal year, a sum about one billion less than the amount asked for the current year.

Martin Farmers Preparing Plant Beds on Extensive Scale

Martin County farmers are making preparations for the extensive plantings of tobacco beds this season, reports from the local FCX yesterday stating that enough seed had already been cleared for nearly 400,000 square yards of beds and that more than two bushels were on hand and ready to be dumped into the cleaning machine. And the work of cleaning seed was just started this week. Some farmers hesitate to divulge their plans for the coming season, but judging from the amount of seed already cleaned they are planning a big tobacco crop in the county this year. At least, Martin farmers are anticipating no shortage of plants when transplanting time rolls around next May.

When the two bushels of seed now awaiting the machine are cleaned, Martin farmers will have enough to seed approximately 768,000 square yards of plant beds or

Illicit Operators Had Tough Time Last Year

RETURNING

Judge N. A. Sinclair, one of the several emergency jurists in the State, is scheduled to preside over the April term of Martin County Superior Court, Clerk of Court L. B. Wynne was notified today by the governor's office.

It will be Judge Sinclair's first visit here since he set the verdict aside in the famous Smithwick's Creek church case in March, 1930. The jurist was retired from the active list last month and comes here in April for Judge C. Everett Thompson who is slated to preside over a regular term of court elsewhere at that time.

Williams Township Farmer Dies At His Home Last Tuesday

Funeral Services Conducted There On Wednesday Afternoon

John Hermit Heath, well-known Martin County farmer, died at his home in Williams Township last Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock, following a short period of declining health. Pneumonia was given as the immediate cause of his death. Large of stature, Mr. Heath was a perfect picture of health and strength until a few months ago when his health broke and he was confined to his home a greater part of the time.

A native of Lenoir County, Mr. Heath was about 62 years old. When a small lad, he moved with his parents, the late Tom and Bettie J. Heath, to this county, locating in the Hardison Mill section of Griffins Township. About 35 years ago he moved into Williams Township and made his home there, marrying Miss Irene Leggett, of Bear Grass. He was an industrious and hard-working farmer. While his advantages in life were limited, he never asked no quarter of any man, always accepting the task before him with a honest determination to win. He lived at home, and his life was marked by its rugged individualism.

Besides his widow, he is survived by ten children, Mrs. Grady Modlin, of Jamesville; Raymond and J. T. Heath, of Williams Township; Mrs. Octavus Barber, of Jamesville, and Jesse, Elbert, Blanche, Bennett, Dulene and Jurlene Heath, all of Williams Township. He also leaves three brothers, Turnice Heath, of Tarboro; Henry Heath, of LaGrange, and Joe Heath, of Goldsboro, and one sister, Mrs. Wesley Hines, of Kinston.

Mr. Heath was a member of the Fairview Christian church, and his pastor, Rev. M. Lilley, of Washington, assisted by Rev. W. B. Harrington, Baptist minister, conducted the funeral services at the late home on Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Interment was on the farm, near the home.

Story Hour At Library Will Be Held At 10:30

The Williamston Public Library announces that the regular weekly story hour will be held Saturday morning at 10:30 o'clock.

Industry In County Estimated Loss Of Around \$75,000.00

Officers Wreck 165 Plants In This County in the Past Year

Watched and hounded by officers, the illicit liquor industry in this county is estimated to have experienced a loss of approximately \$75,000 during the year 1938. The startling estimate is embraced in the growing report of Special Enforcement Officer J. H. Roebuck just released for the year. As far as it could be learned from comparative reports, the drive against illicit liquor in this county reached its greatest climax during the period, equalling if not exceeding the heyday of R. F. D. liquor manufacturing back in the prohibition days.

Starting out single handed, except for aid offered by the sheriff's office, Special Enforcement Officer J. H. Roebuck wrecked an even dozen illicit liquor plants during the first month of 1938. The business gradually dwindled as the months passed until it reached a low point in July when only five plants were wrecked by the raiders. Apparently preparing for a busy fall, the operators set up at least twenty plants in August, the enforcement officer wrecking that many. The number of plants increased to 22 in September, but adverse economic conditions following a poor tobacco harvest is reflected in the catch for October when twelve plants were torn up. Conditions, as far as the economic side of the manufacturing business was concerned, were even worse in November and only eleven plants could be found by the wrecking party.

Short of cash as a result of near crop failures, farmers again turned to the manufacturing business in December. Apparently they were anticipating an increased business at Christmas time, but their hopes faded before the relentless drive of Enforcement Officer Roebuck and his aides. An all-time record was established in that month when thirty-one manufacturing plants were wrecked in various parts of the county and more than twenty thousand gallons of beer and nearly one hundred and fifty gallons of liquor were poured out.

The end of the year found 168 illicit liquor manufacturing plants on the junk pile, 264,400 gallons of beer and 715 gallons of liquor in the gutters. Sixty-seven people were arrested for violating the liquor laws in one way or another. Forty-two of them were convicted. Four automobiles and various properties were confiscated. The officer drove his own car some over ten thousand miles in the big attempt to destroy the illegal industry.

Quite a few of the 67 arrested for alleged violation of the liquor laws are awaiting trial in the spring term of the federal court. Nearly all of them are out under bond at the present time.

Just how successful the attempt was is a matter of debate, but the officer is of the opinion that most of the operators of illicit manufacturing plants have been taught that the business is unsound economically if not morally.

Assisted at one time or another during the year by the sheriff's office personnel, including the sheriff and Deputy Bill Haislip, Jailer Roy Peel and Special Deputies William Roebuck and Sewitt Edwards, Officer Roebuck firmly believes the illicit manufacturing business is on its way out in this county. The officer is certain of one thing and that is he will not better the 1938 record this year.

Applicants Flood Office For Places In CCC Camps

With fifty or more applicants to choose from, the Martin County Department of Welfare will send six youths to Civilian Conservation Corps camps next Tuesday. Ten of the boys, all white, will be offered for examination in Washington that morning, Miss Mary Taylor, head of the department expressing the hope that it would be possible to have the quota of six increased.

The youths accepted into the service next Tuesday will be assigned to camps in this section of the country, it was learned. The names of the boys who will be selected for service have not been released.

Farmers Turn To Credit Agencies To Finance Crops

Government Agencies Show Increased Number of Applications

Martin County farmers, uncertain of credit facilities this spring, are hustling here and there seeking credit for financing their 1939 activities. Already the Farm Security Administration has received fifty more applications than it handled a year ago, and the Production Credit Association is reporting an increase of 20 per cent in new business year up to the present time over that of a year ago.

The Farm Security Administration up until yesterday had received 148 applications for loans, but only 32 had been accepted at that time. Many farmers are turning to the administration for credit for the first time, reports state.

Stating operations only a short time ago, the Production Credit Association has already received 35 applications for loans. Quite a few of the applicants borrowing from the agency a year ago are asking for larger loans this season. "Some are asking for not quite as much, and most of them are applying for the same amounts they borrowed a year ago," Mr. L. A. Clark, recently associated with the credit agency, said yesterday.

No official statement on loans made by banks is available, but it is understood that credit is limited to those who are in a position to offer more than a crop lien as collateral. Time merchants are not at all active, and accounts handled by them this year will be closely watched.

The situation takes an even more serious outlook when the farmer who lives from hand-to-mouth is considered. At the present time no credit sources are available to that group, and unless the seed-feed loan fund is re-established it is very likely that they will be unable to finance farming activities of their own this year. There is some doubt, just now, if the fund will be made available this year.

Farmers, fighting control for tobacco with the intention of increasing their acreages, are in many cases, finding it difficult to finance a farm program no larger than the one followed a year ago. Planting ten acres under the control plan last year, a farmer is said to have set out to obtain credit to finance twenty acres this year. He tried four credit agencies and was refused by all four.

Presbytery To Meet Here On January 10

The Presbytery of Albemarle will convene in the Presbyterian church of Williamston at 10:30 a. m. next Tuesday for its regular January meeting.

The Rev. Dr. Scott, of Goldsboro, is the moderator. The Rev. R. E. McClure, of New Bern is its stated clerk.

The regular business of the Presbytery will be discussed. The Rev. W. D. McInnis, chairman of the Home Mission Committee, which supervises the extensive mission work of the Presbytery, will advise the Presbytery concerning the vacant mission fields of the Presbytery.

Dinner will be served at the Hotel George Reynolds.

The Presbytery will adjourn following the completion of its business in the afternoon.

Third Grade Dairy Is Planned In This County

Farmer Ven G. Taylor is completing plans for the construction of a third grade dairy plant in this county. Contracting with a Greenville firm, Mr. Taylor plans to sell milk wholesale from fifty cows by early March. Work on the new plant is to get underway shortly.

The other grade plants are located in Parmele and Williamston.

ADVANCING

Peanut prices continue to gain strength on the local market, late reports stating that good bunches are commanding three and three-quarter cents at the present time. It is estimated that there are around 65,000 bags of the goobers left in this territory and advises state that most of the farmers are holding their crops for a four-cent market. The advancing market follows an unusually weak and inactive one during the holiday season.

Hundreds of Children Attend X-ray Clinics Here This Week

(By DR. E. W. FURGERSON)

The two tuberculosis X-ray clinics held in the offices of Doctors Saunders and Brown here on Wednesday and Thursday of this week were well attended. Examining 2192 school children last fall, health authorities found 400 showing a positive reaction to the tuberculin test. Out of these 400 children who showed a positive reaction, a total of 332 reported to the clinics and received chest X-rays.

Mr. H. L. Satterwhite, chief technician from the State Sanatorium and his assistant, Mr. H. W. Timberlake, were here to assist in the work. Attendance among the white children who showed positive tuberculin reactions throughout the county was almost 100 per cent and 70 per cent of all colored children who showed a positive reaction reported to the clinic for X-ray examinations.

Usually about one or two children out of every 100 positive reactors will show evidence of active pulmonary tuberculosis, and about 10 out of every 100 will as a rule show some evidence of the childhood type of tuberculosis. In most cases the bodily resistance is strong enough

County Farmers To Push Drive For Bureau Members

Organization Busy Watching State and Federal Legislation

Meeting in the agricultural building here last Wednesday afternoon, about thirty Martin County farmers laid plans for conducting an extensive membership drive for the Martin County unit of the State Farm Bureau Federation.

Headed by J. T. Cooper, Farm Bureau field representative, discussed proposed legislation in both the State and Nation, and "Now that crop control has been voted down it is more important than ever before that the farmers should organize," he said. "You can rest assured that whatever stand the farmers take in any matter, they will find the Farm Bureau Federation, both State and National, in there fighting for the interest of the growers," Mr. Cooper added.

Realizing the need for strong organization units throughout the State and Nation, the County Farm Bureau advanced plans for an interesting membership drive. Two captains, Messrs. V. G. Taylor for the upper part of the county, and Charles L. Daniel for the other section, were named to head the drive. The captains will appoint teams, and the race will be on with the losers entertaining the winners at a big supper within the next few weeks.

Detailed plans for the campaign will be formulated at a second meeting to be held in the agricultural building here next Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock. Mr. Cooper will return at that time, and all Farm Bureau members are urged to attend.

Child Is Seriously Hurt In Accident

Struck by a car driven by Walter Leggett, Edenton man, on East Main Street here late yesterday afternoon, Mary Elizabeth Purvis, five years old, was critically hurt in the first serious auto accident in the county this year.

Dashing into the street, the colored child was struck by a fender of the car and knocked quite a distance. She suffered a broken thigh and a severe head injury that required eight or ten stitches to close. The little tot bit her tongue almost half off.

Mr. Leggett, accompanied by his wife, stopped the car quickly, witnesses stating that he was not driving very rapidly when the child dashed into the street. He rendered what assistance possible, and the child was removed to the offices of Drs. Saunders and Brown for treatment. While her condition is serious she is expected to recover.

Bound Over To Superior Court For Chicken Theft

Charged with the theft of twenty-eight chickens, an axe and a pair of pants from P. T. Norwood, Robersonville farmer, on Christmas night, Isaac Sutton and Ben and Bryant Dixon were bound over to the superior court for trial by Justice J. L. Hassell at a hearing held here this morning. Bond in the sum of \$200 was required of each.

Hoey Addresses General Assembly Yesterday Noon

Recommends Specific Nineteen Point Program to Legislators

Delivering his address to the North Carolina General Assembly yesterday, Governor Hoey recommended a specific nineteen point program and casually mentioned a 20th dealing with a retirement fund for State employees, but the main body of his talk to the legislators appealed for the status quo in State government and politics.

The address was marked by the absence of even casual mention of secondary roads, a platform in the governor's campaign back yonder, and a remedy for crowded conditions in the institutions for the insane.

Causing hardly a ruffle in the State's sea of politics, the address was rated as another part of a well-prepared program and quite a few legislators were home when the message was delivered to the joint session of the House and Senate yesterday noon.

The governor's program is wrapped up in the following nineteen points:

- (1) A balanced budget. No tax reductions, including the sales tax, unless governmental service is trimmed accordingly;
- (2) uniform election laws;
- (3) revision of the absentee ballot law;
- (4) refusal to submit a constitutional amendment to prohibit highway fund diversion;
- (5) issuance of \$5,000,000 in road bonds;
- (6) a 12th grade in the public schools, by adding an eighth grade to grammar school courses;
- (7) a "permanent" state tax measure;
- (8) salary increments for ten years for school teachers, instead of eight years as now;
- (9) pay for teachers divided into 12 equal installments, instead of monthly as they work;
- (10) increased tuition in the colleges and university operated by the state.

- (11) Provision of graduate and professional courses for Negroes at North Carolina College for Negroes and the A. and T. College;
- (12) a new state-wide registration for primaries and elections;
- (13) splitting of large voting precincts;
- (14) return to electrocution for capital punishment, abandoning gas;
- (15) giving juries and judges discretion in imposing the death penalty or life imprisonment for rape, arson, burglary and murder instead of mandatory death sentences for the crimes;
- (16) increasing the highway patrol by 50 men in the interest of highway safety;
- (17) amending the laws limiting hours of work in industry "to more nearly harmonize with present standards";
- (18) continued provision for state advertising;
- (19) creation of "a real tax research division".

Governor Hoey told the legislators they could be especially proud of these things.

Great Building Program

- (1) The greatest building program ever undertaken in all the history of the state, now underway to extend through 1939;
- (2) the sale of \$4,620,000 state bonds for the building program at a record low interest rate of 2.07 per cent;
- (3) the economical administration of state government, so that less than five cents of each tax dollar goes to pay the cost of government, and the school administration's efficiency which allows 82 cents of each school dollar to go into teacher pay;
- (4) the fine progress made in public education in the schools and colleges, for whites and Negroes.

(5) The progress of the Negro race

(Continued on page six)

APPROVED

His appointment by the Martin County Health Board approved by the State Board of Health, Dr. F. W. Wilson will report today or tomorrow to enter upon his duties as the new head of the county's health department. He succeeds Dr. E. W. Furgurson who has resigned to enter private practice. Dr. Furgurson will continue with the department during the next several weeks.

Dr. and Mrs. Wilson will be at home with the Cunninghams on West Main Street.

No Developments In Murder Case

Officers and Special Investigator Harry Paul are again at a standstill in their efforts to solve the two-weeks old mystery surrounding the murder of Paul Lilley, filling station operator near here. "We have not closed the case by any means, but we have made very little progress in handling it so far," Sheriff C. B. Roebuck said this morning.

Mrs. Idell Bunting, arrested in the case last Monday, was released Wednesday, officers admitting that they gained very little information from her that would throw any light on the killing.

Working on the belief that a woman was at the scene of the killing, officers questioned Mrs. Bunting at length, but she maintained that her last visit to the station was made on the evening of December 22, two days before the killing. She explained that she went to the filling station with John Bonds Thursday evening and later passed the station on her way to Washington where she spent the night. Friday, according to her claims, she returned to Williamston and later in the day continued to her home in the Spring Green section.

"The door to the small room where the station operator was found in a dying condition about 6 o'clock the morning before Christmas by his son, James Lilley, was not forced open. It was an inside job and we believe a woman is in the case," Sheriff Roebuck commented.

More Moving Reported in This County Than in the Past Year

Approximately 225 families in this county will change their places of residences this year, preliminary reports indicating that there is more moving this year than last.

The annual shift, reaching into fairly stable communities for the first time in a number of years, is principally confined to the county, it is understood. However, new faces from adjoining counties and a few from distant sections are appearing here and there throughout the county. Both white and colored are being caught in the shift, some reports stating that landowners, disheartened by the indifference of their old tenants, are anxious to have them leave the little shacks that dot the hillsides. Good tenants are in great demand, but with some exceptions, of course, most of the moving is being done by the recognized shiftless. Landowners are not looking for that

type to cultivate their lands, and it is believed that the annual shift will find numbers of squatters here and there throughout the county.

To date, the shifting has not materially affected the attendance upon the schools, the office of the board of education explaining that as fast as some pupils' families move, others come in to take their places, leaving the enrollment virtually unchanged. But the moving is far from complete, reports stating that numbers of families have been directed to vacate their homes and find places elsewhere. Those places are hard to find, and it is apparent that the lot of the tenant farmer is becoming harder and harder as the seasons come and go.