

Herbert C. Bonner In Appeal To Congress For Aid To Farmers

Will Not Be Content For Farm Prices To Remain Stationary As Others Increase

In an address, entitled, "Agriculture and the National Defense," Congressman Herbert C. Bonner before the House Appropriations Committee this week directed an appeal for aid to the farmer. Mr. Bonner said:

I have just heard that the Bureau of Agriculture Economics reports that North Carolina farmers suffered a 8 per cent decline in the total cash farm products during the year 1940, amounting to a little more than twenty million dollars, as compared with the year 1939, and that flue-cured tobacco growers bore the heavy burden of the reduction. Total cash income from tobacco sales from the year 1940 dropped 11 per cent as compared to the year 1939. This is a heavy blow for the North Carolina farmers to sustain during the year 1940 when the national income had increased over three billion dollars and when industry, generally, in North Carolina and the United States had the best year in many respects since 1930. I desire, therefore, to express my views with respect to national defense and agriculture in the world crisis.

In consideration of the Agricultural Appropriations Bills I sincerely trust that Members of Congress will constantly bear in mind the condition of agriculture with relation to the world crisis. We must never forget that with all the vast expenditures for national defense the farmers of this country occupy both the front lines and the rear lines of American defense. In the last analysis, this war may be won or lost on the farms of the United States. The humble and obscure farmer who homeward plods his weary way at nightfall, is the source of this nation's greatness, the foundation of all of its boasted enterprises and the support of its industrial millions.

We read daily of the millions being spent for planes, tanks, guns, cannons and munitions of war. I believe the people of my district approve my vote for these expenditures, but I am serving notice on Congress and the country that the farmers of America are not going to be content for the price of the products of the farm to remain stationary while the products of the machines of this country are constantly increasing in value.

The National Defense Program of the United States has already renewed the movement of men from the country to the towns and cities and the appeal for industrial workers has already taken thousands of farmhands into the factories. It is estimated that the Federal Govern-

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Hold Farm Forum Next Monday Night

The Martin County Farm Bureau will hold its third forum of the year next Monday night in the county agricultural building, and a special invitation is extended all farmers to attend. Officers of the Farm Bureau, the organization sponsoring the program, state that the meetings are open to all farmers and business and professional men interested in this section's basic industry—agriculture.

County Agent Bill Hays, of Plymouth, will discuss beef cattle at the meeting which opens promptly at 7:30 o'clock next Monday night. Mr. Hays is qualified to talk on the subject assigned, and it is a splendid opportunity for Martin farmers to get the "low down" on stock raising as an added source of income in this section of North Carolina.

The results of a cotton variety test conducted by several farmers in the county last year will be tabulated and made available to those attending the meeting.

Colored Selectees Leave March 19th

Four colored trainees will leave this county for Fort Bragg on March 19th, the local draft board having been notified yesterday to issue service calls to that number. The call for the four men completes the first March quota. A second quota is likely to be assigned later in the month.

The board will not have to dig into its draft list for the trainees, the clerk, Marion Cobb, stating today that there are forty colored volunteers awaiting the call to service in Uncle Sam's Army.

Filling its quotas from the white volunteer list during the past three months, it is fairly certain now that the draft board will have to go to the draft list to fill the second quota expected in March.

Senate Committee To Discuss Peanut Quota Bill Next Week

The lowly peanut, after scoring a successful visit through the National House of Representatives, is now making ready to run the gauntlet in the Senate, Congressman Herbert Bonner announcing yesterday that he had been advised by Senator Bankhead, chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, that a peanut hearing would be held by the group next Monday morning at 10 o'clock. A call has been issued for as many peanut growers as possible to attend the hearing.

Apparently the bill providing for a peanut control program will meet with opposition in the Senate. It barely passed in the House and the bill was successful there only after a costly compromise by the old producing areas. According to unofficial reports reaching here there is a movement on to eliminate the diversion feature. Such action would possibly be offset by government loans, but without a diversion feature, peanut farmers say a surplus is likely to result.

The bill, which would put peanut production on an allotment quota basis similar to the program in effect for cotton and tobacco if quotas are voted for by two-thirds of the farmers, with a three cents per pound penalty for all peanuts produced in excess of quotas, has been endorsed by peanut growers from all producing states and was introduced in Congress by Congressman Pace at their request.

No one is planning to attend the hearing from Martin, but other counties in this section of the State will send delegations to Washington for the hearing, it is understood.

State Drys Score Victory In First Bout With Liquor

The North Carolina Drys scored a close but moral victory in their first bout with the Wets this week when a House committee on Propositions and Grievances favorably reported the McGowan bill providing a liquor referendum next November. The Wets had their say before the committee at a hearing held last Tuesday afternoon, and while they may have made some progress, the committee divided eleven to eleven on the matter, the chairman breaking the tie and giving the Drys the victory.

Reported out favorably, the bill was immediately re-referred to the Finance Committee where the control side of the question is certain to be snowed under by the profit motive. Draining an estimated five million dollars out of the 26 wet counties, legalized liquor will command the attention of the financiers when they see an unbalanced budget without liquor and the possibility of a balanced budget with liquor. It is fairly certain that the liquor question will not reach the floor of the House. And if it should, its passage there is not likely. Then there is the Senate waiting to hand the bill an adverse blow if and when it should reach that chamber.

The Finance Committee will go through the formal procedure of holding a hearing next Monday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, the stogees and observers predicting defeat for the bill shortly thereafter.

It is generally believed by the Drys and admitted by some Wets that should a referendum be called, legalized liquor would be ousted by the voters.

Hearing talk about a definite adjournment date the latter part of next week, the law-makers got busy with their law-making and dumped more bills into the hopper, the action of the assembly to date being marked by the ability of leaders to push into the background certain bills of recognized importance. Quite a few proposals have been juggled back and forth in committee, amended time and again and then lost to the public.

The appropriations bill, out of balance with the revenue bill passed some days ago and calling for an increased spending of about twelve million dollars during the next two years, was rushed through the House yesterday in less than half an hour, and was passed by the Senate this morning in nine minutes, paving the way for the State to spend \$166,500,000 during the next two years.

The election of a utility commission will be abolished and placed in the hands of the governor, if a bill passed by the House gains a favorable vote in the Senate.

Passage of a bill restricting the State for Senators and giving the west an additional one, at the expense of the east is expected in the Senate today.

Soldiers will be given the absentee ballot for primary voting if a bill introduced yesterday is passed.

A hang-over from the old slot machine

Pour Concrete On First River Bridge

With a break in the cold weather, work on the four river fill bridges is progressing more rapidly this week, but it is apparent that a completion date is far removed. Pile drivers are sinking piles for the last bridge near the end of the fill on the Bertie side, and workmen started pouring the floor for the first bridge on this side of Conine Creek yesterday.

The contractors handling the dirt for the fill virtually suspended operations this week. The fill has been widened to the required specifications, but the builders early today had not started breaking up and removing the concrete left on the dam during the flood last August. Unofficial reports state that no definite date for completing the work is known, but it has been stated that the contractors hope to have the project completed possibly in May.

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Name Participants In Health Contest

There'll be some keen competition for high ratings next May when representatives of the various 4-H clubs enter the county-wide health contest, the home agent, Miss Lora E. Sleeper, announcing this week that participants had been named.

The winners in the club contests are: Dare Rene Perry and Bessie Marie Jones, of Jamesville; Hazel Gurgans and Audrey Hardison, Williamston; Mary Lou Roberson, Everetts; Lala Smithwick and Eloise Hodges, Farm Life; Pauline Parriaher, Robersonville; Pauline Smith and Gladys Mizelle, Oak City.

Stiffer Opposition Seen For Hitler In Turkey and Greece

Turkey Is Reported To Have Rejected Offer Made By Germany

Despite Hitler's high-powered threats on the diplomatic front to hand the British a set-back in nervous Balkan situation, Turkey today continues to hold tight to the side of England and little Greece, despite warnings, says she will continue her fight. High Turkish officials have been invited to Berlin, but Turkey says she will refuse to send representatives to confer with Hitler, apparently meaning that action can be expected if Hitler attacks Greece.

During the meantime, Hitler is either building up a big bluff or making ready to drive against both Greece and Turkey. He is said to have between 1,800 and 2,000 airplanes in the Balkan region and about 150,000 soldiers ready to strike from Bulgaria. During the meantime Greece is pushing 90,000 men into key positions for any eventuality. There have been reports that the British are moving troops into the new war arena, indicating that any move by Hitler toward Greece will be contested. On the diplomatic front, Hitler, after taking over Bulgaria earlier in the week, is making ready to have Yugoslavia join his list of subjugated countries.

The Balkan situation offers little more than deep mysteries, but events expected during the next few days are expected to throw light on the situation.

Late rumors, traceable to diplomatic circles in the Balkans, declare that Germany will pounce on Greece tomorrow. While the rumors may be offered just to aggravate the war of nerves in that region, communications have virtually been suspended and German moves are cloaked in strict secrecy.

Mystery continues to surround the Far East situation. While some are convinced that Japan is only bluffing, others admit that she is doing a splendid job in tying up a portion of the British fleet in the Pacific and aiding Germany indirectly in her drive against British shipping in the Atlantic. Incidentally, Japan is holding a large part of the American fleet in the Pacific.

On the general war front little activity was reported today. Italy claimed her air force damaged a British cruiser and sank three British merchant ships, while Germany claimed her submarines had sunk 12,000 tons of British shipping.

First Lord of the British Admiralty Alexander this week stated that in all her history England never needed more ships and men than now. However, English tonnage is reported to be greater now than before the war.

In Washington, after spending every possible minute delaying the lease-lend bill, the isolationists arranged another delay of an indefinite nature by wrangling over proposed amendments. The talks are reiterating old arguments heard in the Senate these past few weeks, very few new points having been advanced by either side in recent days. The proponents still are pointing out the need for speed, and a call has been issued to get the Senators into session an hour earlier and to provide for night sessions.

President Roosevelt today again appealed to the Senate for the immediate passage of the lease-lend bill, and it is thought by some that a favorable vote is near at hand.

Band Director Calls For Missing Capes

Several of the green and white capes used by the Williamston High School band in 1935, '36 and '37 cannot be located at the high school, and Band Director J. F. Butler is directing an urgent appeal to the parents of former band members to return the capes to the school.

Made by the Home Economics Department, the band capes are green and white and bear a felt W. Any assistance in locating the capes by parents will be greatly appreciated since every available uniform will be needed to dress the present band. Calls may be directed to J. F. Butler or to the high school office, and students will collect the uniforms. The green and white capes used with the capes belonged to the students, but they will be gratefully received also by present band members.

Plans are going forward rapidly for participation of the local band in Washington's Annual Tulip Festival Parade late in April.

NEW BOOKS

With limited funds available, the local public library slowly but surely is adding a few new volumes to its shelves from time to time. Six new books were added to the list this week, as follows: "Random Harvest," "Homicide for Hannah," "Case of the Solid Key," "Foundation Stone," "It Was Forever," and "City on the Hill."

This list is the second announced by the librarian, Mrs. Ethel Anderson, during the past week or two.

Farm Land Values in County \$35.61 an Acre

Total Value Of All Cleared Land Less Than \$3,000,000.00

Apparently 1,000 Acres of Land Have Been Lost in County To Taxation

While Martin County will depend heavily upon cleared lands for its tax revenue, it will have to dig deep into other properties to balance its budget for the next fiscal year, according to figures released this week by Tax Supervisor S. H. Grimes. With an average per acre value of \$35.61, the 77,811 acres of cleared land are expected to bear about one-fifth of the tax load, leaving woods-land, homes, business houses and personal property to bear the other four-fifths of the burden based on a total tax levy in the sum of \$204,474.65 for the tax year 1940. Using the same rate, in effect for 1940, the county could receive approximately \$40,179.50 in taxes from cleared land. Using the 1940 rate as a base, the farmer is to pay about 51 and one-half cents on each cleared acre of land.

In their survey extending into every nook and corner of the county, the property assessors recently found 77,811 acres of cleared land. It is generally believed that there are approximately 79,000 acres of cleared land in the county, indicating that more than 1,000 acres have been lost somewhere to taxation. Although it is apparent that there was a slight misrepresentation of the actual acreage, the variation is not so great, after all.

While there is no set value for land, it is generally believed that the average acre of cleared land in this county will sell for a figure close to \$100. Some say it is worth more and some say it will not sell for that amount. One tax list-taker maintains that the average acre of land should sell for \$100 while a representative from the farm agent's office and a farmer says the average acre of land in the county will not sell for more than \$35 an acre. The \$100 figure is believed to be more in line with the real sale value under normal conditions. On that basis, the cleared land is listed at just about one-third of its value. When the assessors were making their test listings, several of them expressed the opinion that an assessed value of \$50 an acre on an average would be a fair tax figure for cleared land.

If the estimate of \$100 an acre for cleared land is accepted as a fair sale price, then it is apparent that the assessors fell below their goal which was to place property on the tax books at 60 per cent of its true value. There is no particular argument against the average assessed value for cleared land if other property is listed in proportion. For instance, if the same scale is followed, a \$3,000 home should be valued for tax purposes at about \$1,800.

Then there are those townships with average acre values below the general average of \$35.61. Certainly there is some difference in the quality of lands when compared by townships, as a whole, several assessors going so far as to say that the lowest in Williams Township is high in comparison with others when the quality of the cleared land is given due consideration.

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Second Fund Drive Nears \$100 Figure

Boosted by a \$45 donation coming from Plymouth, the second drive headed by Rev. John W. Hardy, local Episcopal minister, for Greek relief is now nearing \$100, the committee having forwarded a \$100 contribution a few weeks ago.

Keeping in close touch with the situation and readily realizing the suffering the little Greek nation is experiencing, Gus Rigas, operator of the Williamston Cafe, made a personal appeal this week to citizens here and in Plymouth and raised a goodly amount.

In the face of Nazi threats and warnings, the Greeks say they are determined to carry on.

Donations to the Greek relief fund:

Eureka Cafe (H. H. and G.), Plymouth, \$45.00; George Harris, \$1.00; Raymond Taylor, 75c; Belk-Tyler Co., \$2.00; Johnny Cherry, 50c; Jack Fitzgerald, 50c; A. Friend, \$1.00; Darlene's, \$1.00; Soda Shoppe, \$1.00; Garland Barnhill, 50c; A. J. Manning, \$2.50; Peele's Jewelers, \$2.00; Collection box (Central Cafe), \$1.00; Collection box (Williamston Cafe), \$4.00; J. D. Woolard, 50c; W. J. Miller, 50c; Eddie Trahey, \$1.00; Roanoke Chev. Co., \$1.00; Farmers Supply Co., \$1.00; J. C. Leggett, \$1.00; N. C. Green, \$1.00; K. P. Lindsley, \$2.50; P. W. Henderson, \$2.00; Woolard FUEL Co., \$2.00; B. A. Criter, 50c; H. V. Barber, 50c; Gaylord Harrison, \$1.00; Previously reported, \$15.50. Total \$92.25.

Judge W.H. Coburn Calls Eight Cases In Recorders Court

Six Month Sentences Meted Out in Cases Charging Violation ABC Law

The wheels of justice ground swiftly but surely for defendants in the Martin County Recorder's Court last Monday when Judge W. H. Coburn called eight cases, heard the testimony and ordered adjournment in a little more than one hour after convening the session. A fair-sized congregation was present to hear the proceedings.

Continued under prayer for judgment at a former session of the court the case charging James Cole with careless and reckless driving was removed from the docket when Judge Coburn suspended judgment upon payment of the costs.

Committee Is Asking Billion Dollars For Agriculture In 1942

Permanent Appropriations Will Boost Total To Almost Billion and Half

Apparently substantiating the belief that agriculture will experience aggravated difficulties as a result of the war and reduced exports, the Appropriations Committee sent to the National House of Representatives this week a bill calling for \$890,824,037 to finance the 1942 farm program and other activities of the United States Agriculture Department.

This total was a reduction of \$4,927,934 from the budget estimates and a \$193,023,502 cut from the appropriation for the current year. A technical change in manner of financing parity payments was responsible chiefly for the large size of the latter reduction.

The bill means that \$1,420,977,559 will be available to the Department next year, by virtue of permanent appropriations, reappropriations, the power to borrow from the Reconstruction Finance Corp. and authority to make contracts for \$162,000,000 in parity payments. The overall total for the current year was \$1,477,001,061.

The committee proposed that the usual \$212,000,000 for parity payments be made available, but, instead of providing actual cash, it followed President Roosevelt's suggestion that only \$50,000,000 be appropriated and that the Department be given authority to make commitments for the remaining \$162,000,000.

The President, suggested in his budget message that he and the Department have the power to use this money at their discretion, but the Committee at the last minute eliminated that provision, without comment.

Parity payments, designed to raise farm prices to a level where farmers will have the same purchasing power they had from 1909 to 1914, have never been included in the President's budget until this year, but Congress nevertheless has appropriated such money for the past three years.

The committee emphasized in its report on the bill its contention that continuation of the payments was essential.

Little Child Dies In Hospital Here

Della Brown Revels, 14 months old, died in a local hospital early last Tuesday afternoon. Taken ill more than two months ago with pneumonia, the little child was removed to the hospital about seven weeks ago. Undergoing two operations there the child was thought to have been improving at one time, but she suffered a relapse over the week-end, death following a few days later.

She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eason Revels, of Griffins-Township. Funeral services were conducted at the home Wednesday afternoon by Revs. Arnold and Harrington. Burial was in the Revels family cemetery near the home.

Besides her parents she is survived by a little brother, Jimmie.

Firemen Are Called To Local Church Tuesday

During an electrical storm and a heavy rain last Tuesday afternoon, volunteer firemen were called to the Episcopal Church, some man in the neighborhood having entered the call when he saw large volumes of smoke pouring from the roof. Whipped from the furnace chimney by a strong wind, the smoke covered a portion of the roof making it appear that the building was burning.

Nearing the building, firemen thought the church was on fire, but soon learned that the smoke was coming from the furnace. Most of the firemen got wet in the rain but for once the volunteers were headed in the direction of a house of religious worship.

Young Woman Dies In Local Hospital

Miss Gladys Evelyn Whitehurst, 18 years old, died in a local hospital early last night following an illness of only a few days' duration. Taken ill suddenly last Tuesday, Miss Whitehurst was removed to the hospital early yesterday afternoon, death following a few hours later. Complications following an attack of hemorrhagic fever resulted in her death.

The daughter of Jesse Whitehurst and the late Mrs. Laura Thomas Whitehurst, she was born in Pitt County near Bethel. She had made her home in Edgecombe County for some time until last December when she moved to Williamston to live with her sister, Mrs. O. L. Willard, on Marshall Avenue. When she was taken ill she was visiting in the home of her sister, Mrs. Rufus Whitehead on West Main Street here. She was a devoted member of the William and Mary Hart Presbyterian Chapel at Leggett's. During her stay here she made many friends and her death came as a shock to them as well as to members of the immediate family.

Besides her sisters here, she is survived by her father, of near Whitakers; a sister, Mrs. Grover Rogers, of Beaufort County, and a brother, J. B. Whitehurst, of Leggett's, Edgecombe County.

Funeral services are being conducted at her late home on Marshall Avenue this afternoon at four o'clock by Rev. Z. T. Piephoff assisted by Rev. Chester Alexander, a former pastor. Interment will follow in the Whitehurst family cemetery, near Bethel.

First Dollar Day Draws Big Crowd

The first of the three dollar days was well attended here yesterday, nearly all of the merchants reporting marked increases in sales. Coming from at least five counties, the shoppers were said to have been greatly impressed with the special bargains and were pleased with the shopping opportunities and the reception given them.

Unfavorable weather interrupted the shopping parade today, but with clearing skies, larger crowds are expected here tomorrow.

While a few specials were exhausted yesterday, others have been added for today and tomorrow.