

THE NEWS - RECORD

Co-Ops Say Loan Edict Crippling

A spokesman for rural electric co-ops in North Carolina said Saturday that some of the state's 28 REA co-ops would find it "extremely difficult" to operate without the low-cost loans that the Nixon Administration has ordered eliminated.

J. C. Brown, general manager of the North Carolina Electric Membership Corp., said he was shocked by the action and hoped that Congress would reassert its power.

The U. S. Agriculture Department, on orders from the Office of Management and Budget in the White House, announced Friday that the 2 per cent REA rural electric credit system was being replaced by a new loan fund

with interest at 5 per cent. The new fund will be private but supported by a federal guarantee.

"As far as the economic effects," said Brown, "it comes as a shock. We've got to get loan funds from some source. We serve in areas which are thinly populated, largely, and if the cost of money goes up, it will make it difficult for those persons to get electricity."

The state's 28 co-ops serve about a million and a half

residents across the state. REA has been loaning money at 2 per cent interest to the co-ops to build electric systems.

Brown added, "My only reaction, really, is to doubt the authority of the President to do this."

"Congress adopted a law which set up a 2 per cent loan program and allocated funds for it. So now the Office of Management and Budget says it's not going to be."

"I just wonder when

Congress is going to start being Congress," he said, implying that the lawmaking body was permitting the

President to run roughshod over it.

"I'm not going to panic," said Brown. "There's going to

be an REA program operating as co-ops after Nixon leaves office, because the people need it."

REAP And Water Bank Programs Terminated

Funding of cost-sharing activities under the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) and for further contracting under the Water Bank Program (WBP) is being terminated, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced.

These two programs are among those selected after a review of Federal programs to identify those of low priority that can be reduced or eliminated without serious economic consequences. This review was initiated as part of the effort to hold 1973 Federal budget outlays to \$250 billion.

The income supplements for farmers that have been provided by the REAP and WBP are no longer necessary, the Department said. Realized net farm income in 1972 will reach an all-time high of nearly \$19 billion. In view of this, and because of the general acceptance and profitability of certain practices, it is believed farmers will continue to implement a significant number of them without supplemental income from the Federal Government.

The REAP concept was initiated in the 1930's to provide cost-sharing incentives to farmers to install soil and water conserving practices on their lands. The

program was successful in demonstrating the value of conservation as good farming practice.

The Water Bank Program was initiated by recent legislation. Its aim of preserving wetlands for the preservation of waterfowl is desirable, Department officials said, but the program is considered unnecessary since

the Department of the Interior administers similar programs to enhance and conserve migratory waterfowl habitat.

The Department will honor commitments made under the two programs through December 22, 1972. No request by producers for cost-sharing under REAP or for Water Bank contracts will be approved after that date.

Walnut 7th And 8th Grade Cage Teams Are Impressive

The Walnut seventh and eighth grade basketball teams have gotten off to a good start this year with the boys claiming a 3-1 record and the girls even on the season with a 2-2 mark. Both teams have played four games overall including three Madison County games.

The boys record in county play is 3-0 and the girls are 2-1. The new nicknames for the Walnut teams are the Minutemen and the Liberty Belles in an attempt to keep with the theme of Patriots for the new Madison County Consolidated High School.

The coach of Walnut is Don Banks who is also the Social Studies and physical education instructor for the seventh and eighth grades. Coach Banks is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Banks of Marshall and is a former MHS athlete and a graduate of Mars Hill College.

In Walnut's first game of the season, the teams travelled to Bethel Jr. High in Haywood County where they played Bethel's seventh, eighth and ninth grades. The Walnut girls got off to a slow start against the taller Bethel girls and could never catch up as they were defeated 45-24. Leesa Harrell and Gale Garrett led the offense with 6 points each. Paula Boone led the defense with 3 stolen balls and forcing numerous turnovers. The boys also had some "first game jitters" but adjusted quickly and played a very competitive game against a more experienced group of eighth and ninth graders from Bethel. The final score was 37-26 as Mick Cody led the Minutemen with 10 points and Kim Robinson grabbed 12 rebounds.

On Dec. 15, Mars Hill travelled to Walnut and the fans were treated to two fine basketball games as the Liberty Belles of Walnut defeated Mars Hill's girls 28-19. Pacing the attack for Walnut was Peggy Rice with 10 points and 10 rebounds. The boys game was even more thrilling as Coach Larry Wyatt's Mars Hill boys gave the Walnut boys a tough battle down to the wire. Kim Robinson put the game out of reach with 4 clutch free throws in the final minute of play. Robinson led the Minutemen's attack with 13 points and Bobby Chandler

had 11 points and commanded the boards throughout the day with 15 rebounds. The final score was Walnut-30, Mars Hill-25.

In Walnut's last game to date against Laurel on Dec. 30 the girls of Walnut demonstrated their pressing defense for a large turnout of fans as they stole the ball 12 times and forced the Laurel girls into numerous turnovers as they defeated Laurel 49-24. The boys of Walnut were also in fine form as they shot a hot 55 per cent from the floor to defeat Laurel 38-22. Peggy Rice was the leader for Walnut on offense and defense. For the boys, Bobby Jack Chandler treated the fans to an amazing performance as he cleared the boards for 23 rebounds which is spectacular since only 6 minutes quarters are played in seventh and eighth grade play.

The Minutemen roster is as follows: Bobby Chandler, Tim Chandler, Gene Clark, Russell Gontz, Mike Cody, Jesse Duncan, Tommy Duvall, Dennis Edwards, Mark Pearson, Joey Plemons, Dean Ramsey, Johnny Ray, Kenny Ray, and Kim Robinson. The Liberty Belles include Rosa Deane Frisby, Leesa Harrell, Janet Reeves, Terry Reeves, Peggy Rice, Sharon Rice, Reta Boone, Paula Boone, Gale Garrett, Denise Deal, Carol Hensley, Beverly Ball, Lynn Massey, Dawn Clemons, Diane Whitl and Georgette Penland.

Walnut's next home contest is a boys game against Canton Jr. High on Jan. 13 at 2:00. The public is urged to get out to Walnut and support these fine basketball teams, who along with the other seventh and eighth grade teams in the county will compose your Patriots of Madison High School.



INSTALLATION SERVICE was held by members of the French Broad Masonic Lodge No. 292, AF & AM, at the Masonic Building here on Tuesday night, Dec. 26. Shown above are the officers who were installed: Front row, left to right, Jack Guthrie, treasurer; Ted Hunter, Senior Warden; Bill Ricker, Worshipful Master; Sam Houston, Junior Warden; Elwood Waldrup, Secretary. Second row, Herschel Holcombe, District Deputy Grand Master, Installing Officer; R. B. McDevitt, Senior Steward; Roger Moore, Junior Steward; Jeter Cantrell, Junior Deacon. Back row, Grady Connor, Senior Deacon; and Grady Rice, Tiler; Preston Edwards, Chaplain, was not present when picture was made. Clifford Waldrup served as Installing Chaplain and Albin Buckner served as Installing Marshal.



OUT-GOING WORSHIPFUL MASTER ERNEST FRISBY is shown presenting gavel to in-coming Worshipful Master Bill Ricker.

New Social Security Law Now In Effect

A new Social Security law increasing benefits—and also taxes—became effective today.

The measure signed by President Nixon Oct. 13, raises the amount of wages subject to Social Security taxes from \$9,000 to \$10,800 and increases the amount of tax from 5.2 per cent to 5.85 per cent.

The maximum Social Security tax under the old law was \$468, but under the new one the maximum tax is \$631.80.

The new law has numerous new benefits, including a provision that will allow

widows to receive 100 per cent of what their husbands would have gotten instead of 82 1/2 per cent.

The new law will also let persons who have reached retirement age earn \$2,000 a year without loss of benefits instead of the previous \$1,680. Above \$2,100, they will lose \$1 for each \$2 of earnings.

The new law allows men to receive the same retirement benefits as women. Under the old law, a woman with an earning record identical to a man's got \$10 more a month if both were entitled to maximum payment.

Population

73 Figure Is 210 Million

The United States started the new year with a population of 210,194,312, the Census Bureau has estimated.

The bureau said Sunday that the net gain in population during 1972 was 1.6 million, a slowdown from 1971's 2.2 million. The largest annual net increase was 3.1 million in 1966.

Schedule For Holshouser Inauguration Announced

At 7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 4, the Inaugural Ball honoring Governor-elect Holshouser and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. James B. Hunt, Jr., the U. S. Gov.-elect, and other members of the Council of State and their ladies. The event is sponsored by the Junior League of Raleigh and all net proceeds go to selected charities.

Friday it becomes official. There will be a family communion service at the First Presbyterian Church, ministered by the Rev. Albert G. Edwards.

Before anything else, final honors will be rendered Gov. Bob Scott. Troop units participating in the honors, and the escort, will mass on Blount Street at 10:45 a.m., then in five minutes the band will sound "attention" and the N. C. National Guard's Adjutant General will escort the Governor, the Governor-elect and their wives to positions on the front porch of the mansion. At the first note of "Ruffles

and Flourishes", Scott and Holshouser will remove their hats. Later they will be escorted into the mansion and it is all over for Bob Scott.

At 11:25 a.m., the escort will begin to move, and here follows the order of march: Police Escort, Grand Marshal and Staff, Troops and band, official cars bearing the inaugural committee, Chief Justice Bobbitt of the N. C. Supreme Court, and Justices Higgins, Sharp, Lake, Branch, Huskins and Moore, with their spouses.

After a two minute pause, the Watauga High School Band and the Governor's honor guard will march, followed by Scott and Holshouser, with the Adjutant General, will pass in car six, followed by a car with their wives.

The 30th Infantry Division (Mechanized) Band will arrive at the Capitol at approximately 11:30 a.m. then the cars bearing the Council of State and Supreme Court

Justices will unload and the passengers will be escorted into the rotunda.

Once inside, the Justices will don judicial robes for the processional, and following the formation of the processional, the Presiding Officer will announce—at noon—"The Chairmen of the Governor's Inaugural Committee will escort the inaugural party to the rostrum. The audience will please stand."

The Rev. John K. Parker Jr., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Boone will give the invocation, and those in attendance will sing the national anthem.

After the council of state is sworn in by the Justices, and the Lieutenant Governor is sworn, the military honors for Holshouser will begin. The band will play "Ruffles and Flourishes", an artillery battery will begin firing a 19-gun salute to the state's new chief.

Griffey Home Destroyed By Fire Monday

The one-story residence of Joe Griffey, on Rector's Corner, Marshall, was destroyed by fire early Monday morning.

Marshall firemen answered the alarm shortly after midnight but flames had consumed the house when firemen arrived with three trucks.

No one was at the building when firemen arrived and all contents were lost, fire officials stated.

Firemen were also called to a brush fire on Fisher Lane off Highway 213, Monday afternoon. Little damage was reported.



GOVERNOR-ELECT JAMES E. HOLSHOUSE, JR., his wife, Pat, and their daughter, Ginny, are pictured above. Elaborate inaugural ceremonies will be held in Raleigh Friday.

I Killed, I Wounded In Property Dispute

A long-standing quarrel between neighbors over property rights erupted Christmas Day into a shootout in which one Weaverville man was killed and another seriously wounded.

Donald Edward Metcalf, 35, of Box 147, Red Oak Road, was dead on arrival at Memorial Mission Hospital shortly after noon Monday of last week and Robert Eugene Hensley, 45, of Box 149, Red Oak Road, was admitted to the hospital with a gunshot wound in his chest.

Morrissey said his investigators found a 38-caliber revolver near Metcalf's body and a 22-caliber rifle belonging to Hensley at the scene of the shooting, a driveway that provides access to both men's homes.

Deputy sheriffs of Buncombe County said their investigation hadn't turned up any witnesses to the shooting. They said it wasn't yet clear whether one man shot first, or both of them fired their weapons at about the same time.

Hensley had a chest wound, was suffering at least partial paralysis below the waist.

Morrissey said Metcalf, a truck driver for Watkins Motor Freight Lines of Greenville, S. C., lived at the home of his father-in-law, Henry Norton, when in the Asheville area.

Norton's home was about

farther back off Red Oak Road than Hensley's, and the only vehicular access to it apparently was a driveway that passed close by Hensley's house.

Deputy sheriffs said they had been told that court action involving a "land dispute" between Norton and Hensley had been brought some time ago.

A relative of Metcalf confirmed this in a telephone conversation with a reporter. "Right of way was the subject of the lawsuit," he said. "Hensley questioned our right to use the driveway."

Funeral services for Metcalf were held at 2:30 p.m. Thursday of last week in Peek's Chapel Baptist Church, of which he was a member.

The Revs. Arthur Hensley and Larry Edwards officiated. Burial was in Bowman-Rector Cemetery. Pallbearers were Jerry, Calvin, Ronald, Dean and Ottho Gosnell, Lewis Randall and Don Cole.

Metcalf was a native of Madison County and had lived in Travelers Rest, S. C. for the past four years. He was a driver for Watkins Motor Lines.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Hazel Norton Metcalf of Travelers Rest; the mother, Mrs. Alfred Metcalf Gosnell of Rt. 6 Marshall; a brother, Jimmy Metcalf of Rt. 2 Marshall; and a sister, Mrs. Ronnie Candler of Arden.

Plane Crash Kills Baseball Star

Roberto Clement, Pittsburgh Pirates' superstar, was one of five persons killed late Sunday night in the crash of a four-engine DC-7 which had departed on a mercy mission to earthquake-torn Managua, Nicaragua.

A U. S. Coast Guard spokesman said Monday there were no survivors, and Gov. Luis A. Ferre officially declared Clemente dead although he said search operations would continue.

Clemente had been a Pittsburgh player for 18 years. He won four National League batting titles, had a lifetime average of .318 and was one of only 11 players to collect 3,000 or more hits. He was the Most Valuable Player in 1954 and was selected for the All-Star game 12 times.

A Puerto Rican government spokesman said the pilot and co-pilot, an engineer and an unidentified radio newsman were on the plane with Clemente. The plane crashed within sight of San Juan's luxury hotels under normal weather conditions.

Clemente had been elected president of Puerto Rico's Nicaragua relief program. Clemente's wife, Vera Christiana, said Clemente had been on the verge of canceling the flight.

Snelson Heads Ambulance Service Here

The Madison County commissioners have named Ernest Snelson, of Marshall, Route 1, director of the Madison County Ambulance Service. It has been announced.

Snelson, who began his new duties January 1, succeeded Charles Huey, of Marshall, who resigned the post.

Snelson will be in charge of ambulance personnel, bookkeeping and other duties related to the service.

Ramsey Named House Finance Panel Head



REP. LISTON B. RAMSEY, Rep. Liston B. Ramsey, of Marshall, will head one of the House's important money committees in the 1973 North Carolina General Assembly.

Ramsey was named chairman of the House Finance Committee Monday by Speaker-designate James Ramsey of Roxboro, Rep. Carol J. Stewart Jr. of Gastonia will be chairman of

the Appropriations Committee.

Ramsey, no relation to the speaker-designate, and Stewart, both Democrats, will become members of Republican Gov. Jim Holshouser's six-member Advisory Budgetary Commission.

James Ramsey said he had not maintained the 85-35 Democrats to Republicans House ratio in selecting the leadership of the two committees. The Appropriations Committee has five Democrats. Of the 10 subcommittee vice chairmen, two are Republicans.

On the Finance Committee, which has no subcommittees, one of the four vice chairmen, two are Republicans.

The Appropriations Committee subcommittee chairmen are: Clyde Auman of West End, Health, Welfare

and Institutional Care; Charles Phillips of Greensboro, Education; Roberts Jernigan of Ahsokie, General Government and Transportation; W. S. Harris of Graham, Personnel and Long Range Planning; and Horton Rountree of Greenville, Base Budget.

The vice chairmen on the Finance Committee are Democrats Sneed High of Fayetteville, David Baumgardner of Belmont, James Green of Clarkton, and Republican Lawrence Cobb of Charlotte.

Ramsey said he had gotten an approximately true ratio of Democrats to Republicans in the general membership of the committees. Appropriations has 60 members and Finance has 10 members, meaning that almost every member of the House is on one of the two committees.