Vol. 85 No. 5 Marshall, N.C.

January 23, 1985

THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY SINCE 1901

25¢

INCORRECT DATE

Correct Date January 30, 1985

UN Ambassador To Address MHC Graduates

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Community Calendar

Contel Meeting Postponed, Will Be Held Friday

A public meeting planned by Continental Telphone Co. of N.C. for Madison County customers was postponed Monday because of heavy snows which hit the area. Contel vice president Turnre Rogers has announced that the meeting will now be held on Friday at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the Department of Social Services office on Main Street in Marshall.

The meeting has been called to discuss Contel's recent request for a rate increase and other changes in the telephone industry. The public is invited to attend.

County Commissioners Change Meeting Time

The Madison County Board of Commissioners will meet on Feb. 4 at 1 p.m. in the Madison County Court House.

Mars Hill Aldermen To Meet

The Mars Hill Board of Aldermen will meet on Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mars Hill Town Hall.

Hot Springs Board Meets

The Hot Springs Board of Aldermen will meet on Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

School Board Meets Feb. 6

The Madison County Board of Education will meet on Feb. 6 at 10:30 a.m. in the Madison County Court House.

Block Calls For Phase-Out Of Tobacco Program

By A.L. May
Washington Correspondent
The News and Observer

WASHINGTON- U.S. Agriculture Secretary John R. Block said Thursday that the Reagan administration would ask Congress to phase out tobacco price supports and the tobacco quota system over the next five years.

Block said growers would receive direct payments in the period to ease the transition to what the administration hopes would become a "market oriented" system of farm programs.

In brief comments to reporters, Block said "Yes," when asked whether his proposals ultimately would eliminate the quota and price support systems for tobacco.

But, he said, "The administration's program will phase down the quota and the price controls, and over this period of time will provide direct payments to support growers in this transition."

Block did not elaborate, but he said the payment would be similar to the "deficiency payments" wheat, cotton and the producers of other commodities receive under a support program that includes what are called target prices.

Rep. Charles G. Rose III, D-N.C., chairman of the House Tobacco and Peanut Subcommittee, blasted the proposal.

"I am angered and outraged at this administration for proposing this kind of additional burden on the already overburdened farmer."

Rose said he had been told by a Republican colleague who had been briefed by the administration that both price supports and quota controls would be eliminated in the five-year period.

And given President Reagan's popularity and the minority status of farm congressman, Rose said he feared the administration proposal could be "serious threats."

According to congressional sources, the phase-out would be part of an elimination of price subsidies above the normal market levels and an end of production controls for all commodities, including dairy and peanuts. Apparently some form of a loan program would remain although it would be pegged below market rates to keep the commodities "market clearing."

Administration intentions in that regard were unclear, although Republican congressional supporters said Thursday that they expected there would be some form of residual loan program.

The plan is part of an overall administration budget package to reduce federal deficits. Although the bulk of the tobacco program is financed by growers, the administration has decided to include tobacco in a strategy of treating all segments of the farm community alike. "Tobacco will not be alone," Block said.

Block's comments came as he emerged from a meeting in the offices of Sen. Jesse A. Helms, R-N.C. Block and budget director David A. Stockman briefed Helms, who is chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and other Republican members of the panel. Helms could bot be reached for comment.

But George S. Dunlop, top agriculture aide to Helms, said Helms would oppose phasing out the allotment system. Although Dunlop heard Block's remarks, he said, "I'm not particularly concerned."

Dunlop said he expected Helms to be able to convince the administration and Congress that the reasons for keeping the

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Surplus Cheese To Be Distributed

USDA Commodities will be distributed on two days. Persons whose last name begins with A-L will be able to pick up their commodities February 7, 1985 between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Those persons whose last name begins with M-Z will be able to pick up their commodities on February 8, 1985 between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

You must report to the Food Stamp Office, located on Main Street in Marshall on the date that correspondes to your last name (February 7, 1985 A-F; February 8, 1985 M-Z) between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. and complete an application for the commodities. This applies to both Food Stamp Recipients and Income Eligible. After completion of the application you will go to the main office of the Department of Social Services and receive your commodities.

Households that are eligible to participate in the free food give away are:

1. Food Stamp Recipients previously certified for the month of February.
2. Household's whose gross monthly income is below the federal income poverty level.

Food Stamp Recipients must present their Food Stamp ID card when they make application. Should someone else pick up commodities for you, you will need to send your ID card along with a signed statement from the head of the household, stating the other person has your permission to receive the commodities for you.

Income eligible households needs to bring their Social Security card for proof of indentification. Should an income eligible household need someone to pick up commodities for them, they will need to send their Social Security card along with a signed statement by the head of the household stating their gross monthly income and the number of people in the family. The statement must also have the friends name on it, giving that person permission to receive your commodities.

If you have any questions call 649-2711.

Unemployment Increases Statewide

Unemployment in North Carolina increased in the last month of 1984 according to figures released last week by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission (ESC.) The December unemployment rate rose to 7.2 percent of the workforce, according to ESC chairman Glenn Jernigan.

Nationally, unemployment stood at seven percent as 1984 came to a close. The statewide totals represent some 216,800 jobless workers.

In announcing the figures, Jernigan said that the slight increase was due to decline in employment in textiles and agriculture. Nonmanufacturing employment increased during the month.

Jernigan will be among the unemployed in January's figures. The ESC chairman has been replaced by former Republican state chairman David Flaherty.

The average manufacturing production workweek increased during December to 40.1 hours, up from 39.8 hours in November, while the average hourly wage for manufacturing production workers increased one cent to $7.15 per hour.

Madison County unemployment figures for December will be released later this week.

Says He Won't "Pull Rug Out" On Leaf Farmers

By A.L. MAY and CHARLES JEFFRIES
The News and Observer

U.S. Agriculture Secretary John R. Block says his plan to pahse out the federal tobacco program would not "jerk the rug out" from under farmers because it would retain some financial support for growers as well as payments to allotment holders.

But news that Block wants to dismantle the federal program of tobacco production controls and price guarantees drew intense criticism from tobacco state farmers and politicans.

"if we lose this thing, the other segments of the economy- not just us- will be adversely affected," Harnett County farmer Harold Allen said in a telephone interview. "It's easy to sit in Washington or Raleigh and say we can do this and that, but the people on my level have to endure the hardships."

In a satellite TV news conference taped Thursday in Washington with farm-state TV stations, Block said that after a five-year "phase-down" period, there would still be a "minimum amount of support to the growers."

He added that the "phase-down will provide substantial payments to the allotment holders and will help them through the transition period."

Block did not elaborate in his televised comments, but his statements were similar to remarks he made to reporters when he left a meeting Thursday in the Washington office of Sen. Jesse A. Helms, R-N.C.

Under Block's proposal, tobaco would be included in a uniform federal farm program that would phase-out- over five years- all support prices that are above normal market levels for commodities now under the federal farm programs.

Federal price supports for flue-cured tobacco. now averaging $1.70 per pound, are blamed for pushing market prices too high. Federal target prices for many other commodities, however, are lower than average market rates.

Administration officials have said Block's recommendations would be made in mid-February inm a proposed 1985 farm bill.

N.C. Agriculture Commissioner James A. Graham said in a prepared statement that Block's proposal "shocked" him.

"We have been working hard in recent years to eliminate any cost to the taxpayers for the tobacco program," Graham said, "and this is the thanks we get."

William B. Jenkins, assistant to N.C. Farm Bureau President John W. Sledge, said Block's proposal has little chance of congressional approval because tobacco still has friends in both Senate and House agriculture committees.

"We can see no way that we can support this type of legislation," Jenkins said in a telephone interview. "Our tobacco committee met today and voiced unanimous support for the current tobacco program. Farm Bureau leaders in Kentucky and South Carolina have also criticised Block.

Rep. Charles G. Rose III, D-N.C., said Friday that the Reagan administration and the Republican Senate leadership would try to bypass the agriculture committees in both houses, where cutbacks in farm programs would meet their most staunch resistance.

"The strategy is a straight line from the White House to the American people," Rose said. He predicted the administration would back a budget measure as early as the end of next month that would include the farm program changes being outlined by Block.

A Block aide declined to comment on Rose's charges.

"The secretary plans to go forward with his concept about the market-oriented program, but I can't go into detail on what will be a final farm bill," said Wilmer D. Mizell, assistant agriculture secretary for public affairs.

Block and David A. Stockman, director of the Office of Management and Budget, briefed Helms, who is chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and the Republican members of the Senate committee on his general farm programs ideas Thursday. Sources said, however, that Block did not tell the senators specifically about his tibacco proposals.

Helms could not be reached for comment Friday. The senator's top agriculture aide, George S. Dunlop, was critical of Block's proposals. He said "fundamental differences" between tobacco and other commodities would make it unworkable to include tobacco in an all-encompassing farm program.

Also, Dunlop said he did not believe Block fully appreciated the importance of allotments, which Helms said he would fight to retain. The Helms aide said that Block is a "hog farmer from Illinois, and the programs he really knows are the wheat, feed grains and cotton."

Dunlop said too much attention was being focused on Block's comments about tobacco allotments when the secretary was trying to paint a broad brush to agriculture policy.

"John Block is looking at the forest, and he mentioned a tree and that got the roots of that tree shaking," Dunlop said. But he said he was confident that Helms would "confront" any effort to eliminate tobacco allotments.

Joining the cry against Block's proposal was Rep. I.T. 'Tim' Valentine, D-N.C., who called it "absolutely foolish and without merit."

"I cannot concieve that the administration would make such an ill-advised recommendation to Congress," said Valentine in a statement released by his office.

"But if they do, be assured we will fight it... Tobacco farmers are having a tough enough time as it is now without being offered up as a sacrificial lamb on the altar of 'market economy.'"

In an interview, Fred G. Bond, manager of the Flue-Cured Tobacco

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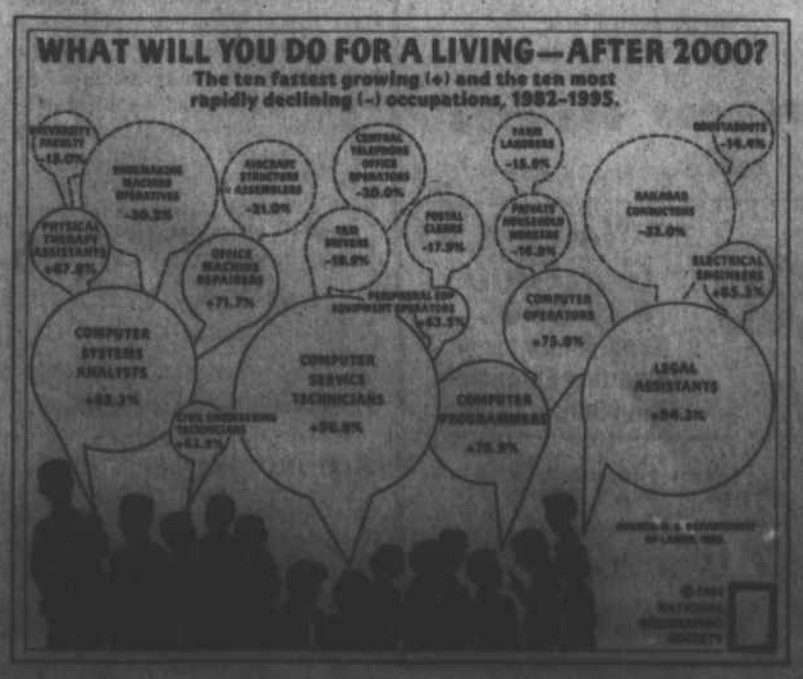

District Court Holds Sessions

District Court Judge Phillip C. Ginn presided over two sessions of the Madison County District Court last week in Marshall.

During the Jan. 23 session of the court, charges of communicating threats, assault and domestic criminal trespass against Jackson B. Ramsey were dismissed. Shoplifting charges against Greg Galloway were also dismissed.

After a probable cause hearing into a charge of assault with a deadly weapon against Darius Anderson, the court dismissed the charge. Roger Dale Henaley failed to appear to answer a charge of assault and the court issued an arrest warrant for the defendant.

Donald Bruce Wallin, charged with impaired driving, entered a guilty plea to a lesser charge of reckless driving and received a four-month suspended sentence. Wallin was also fined $100 and ordered to pay court costs and attend Alcohol Drug Education School.

The court dismissed charges of common law robbery and assault with a deadly weapon against both Floyd and Coyd Rollins. Judge Ginn ordered a witness for the prosecution, Eddie Penland, to appear before the court after the witness failed to appear for trial.

During the session held on Jan. 24, Eldon Shelton failed to appear to answer charges of impaired driving and simple possession of a controlled substance. The court issued an arrest warrant for Shelton.

Michael John Boyd entered guilty pleas to charges of impaired driving and driving while consuming a malt beverage and was fined $125 and ordered to pay court costs, attend Alcohol Drug Education School and serve 24 hours community service. Boyd was also ordered to surrender his driver's license.

Leroy DeWayne Carver wasfound guilty of impaired driving and received a suspended 60-day jail sentence and was fined $100.

Michael D. Triplett was found guilty of impaired driving and was fined $125 and received a 60-day suspended sentence and was ordered to attend Alcohol Drug Education School.

Kenneth W. Jones, found guilty of driving with a revoked license, was fined $100 and received a two-year suspended sentence.

Cornell Kelly, Jr., found guilty of impaired driving, was fined $100 and received an 18-month suspended sentence and was ordered to serve 14 days in the county jail.

Impaired driving charges against Diann Paul were dismissed.

Johnny Dewease was found guilty of impaired driving and received a 120-day suspended sentence and a $150 fine. He was also ordered to serve 48 hours of community service and attend Alcohol Drug Education School.

Douglas Hue Presnell was found innocent on a charge of impaired driving.

The next session of the Madison County District Court is scheduled for Feb. 4.