

Duplin Times

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This Week

Filipino Leaf Curbs Flayed

"Import quotas established by the Philippine Congress is strangling the flow of U. S. tobacco to this traditional market," the Leaf Tobacco Industry has declared in a brief filed with the U. S. delegation, now holding hearings in Washington on the revision of the U. S. - Philippines Trade Agreement.

The brief was prepared by J. B. Huston, president of Tobacco Associates, Inc., Randolph S. Taylor, executive secretary of the Burley and Dark Leaf Tobacco Export Association, Inc., and J. C. Lenier, general counsel for the Tobacco Association of United States and Leaf Tobacco Exports association.

The Philippines have long been an important market for U. S. grown tobacco. During the years 1948-49, U. S. tobacco exports, manufactured and unmanufactured, averaged about 29 million pounds, farm sales weight, per year; 1950-53, they averaged about 26 million.

The brief points out that "under provisions of a law passed by the Philippine Congress in 1952 and amended in July of this year, tobacco import quotas have been set up which will greatly reduce the importation of U. S. tobacco."

The law, Republic Act 698, provides for the following import quotas on all foreign-grown leaf tobacco: For 1953, 75 percent of the total importation in 1950; for 1953, 50 percent; for 1954, 40 percent and for succeeding years, 25 percent of the total importation in 1950.

Under the provisions, the tobacco import quotas in 1953 amounted to 14.3 million pounds, and for 1954 the quota is about 11 million. In succeeding years, the annual quota would be around seven million pounds.

The July amendments further provide that "in 1954 and 1955, quotas may be increased to provide for the importation of enough tobacco which, when added to the total domestic leaf production, will permit the manufacture of tobacco products in amounts equivalent to or of the previous fiscal year."

At Act 698, as amended, however, U. S. leaf tobacco can be exported into the Philippines or thereafter unless their domestic production during the year is insufficient to maintain the manufacture of tobacco products at a level equal to that of the preceding year.

The Leaf Tobacco Industry contends that "should the United States adopt a similar policy and, at the same time, establish a policy of increasing their domestic productions, most Philippine products would be completely eliminated from the U. S. market within a short time."

In its brief filed with the chairman of the U. S. Delegation to the Philippine trade negotiations, the Leaf Tobacco Industry contends that "Republic Act 698 violates the spirit and intent of the existing trade agreement between the United States and Philippines."

The existing trade agreement provides, among other things, that with certain exception Philippine articles could be imported into the United States duty-free and that with certain exceptions U. S. articles could be imported into the Philippines duty-free until July 4, 1954. By mutual agreement of the parties, the duty-free period has been extended in additional months from July 4, 1954.

The present agreement, before the duty-free provisions were extended, provided that from July 4, 1954 to December 31, 1954 the rate of import duty imposed by the Philippines on U. S. leaf tobacco would be five percent of the full rate (which at the present time is \$4.00 per kilo for unstemmed leaf and \$5.00 per kilo for stemmed leaf) and that the rate be progressively increased each year until it reached 100 percent of the full rate in 1970.

The present trade agreement also specifies definite U. S. import quotas for certain Philippine products, such as sugar, cordage, rice, cigars, cigar and scrap tobacco, cocoanut oil and buttons. No quotas are provided for American products entering the Philippines.

If this principle of import quotas can be applied logically by the Philippine Republic in the framework of the trade agreement, the Leaf Tobacco Industry reasons that "it is entirely possible for the Philippines to close its country to all American products. The duty-free provisions of the agreements become sterile and of no effect by the limitation and exclusion of American imports by the imposition of quotas."

The brief also points out that "Act 698 has had little if any effect so far on the consumption of U. S. tobacco in the Philippines because Philippine manufacturers had accumulated fairly large stocks of U. S. leaf prior to the implementation of this law." The brief adds, however, that "recent reports indicate that manufacturers' stocks are now very much depleted, and that cigarette production must be cur-

tailed in the near future unless adequate imports are permitted. These reports also indicate that some of the agencies concerned with establishing the supplemental import quotas as provided for in the amendments seem to be unnecessarily delaying the establishment of these quotas."

"The imposition by either country of quotas outside of those set forth in the trade agreement can vitiate the whole objective of the agreement," the brief declared. "Import quotas have already upset trade relations of tobacco," the brief added, at the same time pointing out that "Philippine products coming into the United States have not been curtailed or restricted other than as provided for in the Trade Agreement."

The Tobacco Industry strongly urged that "the new trade agreement between the U. S. and the Philippines include the prohibition against the application of quotas by either country except as specifically set out in the existing agreement."

If the principle of quotas is accepted as a fundamental part of the new agreement we strongly recommend that United States conferees insist that quotas be limited to a minimum yearly figure based on historical data."

WITH OUR BOYS IN SERVICE



Pic. CHAS. A. BEASLEY

Army Pfc. Charles A. Beasley, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Beasley of Wallace, N. C., was recently selected to serve with the Honor Platoon at Headquarters of the 4th Infantry Division in Germany. Regularly assigned as a rifleman in the 22nd Infantry Regiment's Company K of the 4th Infantry Division, Private First Class Beasley was selected for his general military excellence. Platoon members are chosen from the companies of the division in weekly competition. Beasley entered the Army in June 1953 and arrived overseas last January.

(U. S. Army Photo)

GAMP SENDIA, JAPAN—Army Sergeant First Class Wilbur E. Rochelle, son of Mr. Paul V. Rochelle, Warsaw, N. C. with only four months of Judo instruction recently won a Japanese Judo Black Belt by defeating two opponents in Sen-dai, Japan.

Sergeant Rochelle, a platoon sergeant in Company B of the 50th Signal Battalion Corps, arrived overseas in July 1952. An electrician before entering the Army, Rochelle is with his wife, Wilma, at Camp Sendai.

FPC. L. W. KENNEDY

24th DIV. KOREA — Pfc. Levon W. Kennedy, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Kennedy, Route 2, Pink Hill, N. C., is serving with the 24th Infantry Division in Korea.

The "Victory" division first landed in Korea in July 1950 and spent 18 months in combat before going to Japan for security duty. It returned to the peninsula shortly before the cease fire.

Kennedy, overseas since April, is a driver in Service Company of the division's 21st Regiment. Before entering the Army in October 1953, he worked for the Bryant Tobacco Co. of Wallace.

FPC. J. F. THIGPEN

CAMP HAKATA, JAPAN — Pfc. John F. Thigpen, 20, son of William H. Thigpen, Pink Hill, N. C., recently spent a seven-day rest and recreation leave from his unit in Korea at Camp Hakata, on Japan's southernmost island of Kyushu.

Sight-seeing and extensive entertainment facilities at the camp provided him with a welcome break in the task of maintaining security on the Korean peninsula.

Thigpen, an ammunition specialist in Company H of the 7th Infantry Division's 23rd Regiment, entered the Army in November 1953 and arrived in Korea last May.

New Tuscarora Council Officers To Be Elected; J. B. Turner To Speak



JOHN B. TURNER

New officers for the Tuscarora Council, Boy Scouts of America, will be elected at the 31st annual meeting at the Goldsboro Country Club on December 8.

The election will be held at 5 p.m. in the Golf Course club house adjacent to the Country Club, followed by the annual banquet in the Country Club house at 7 p.m.

John B. Turner, of Miami, Fla., will speak to members and their

guests as a special feature of the banquet-meeting.

The speaker is a native of Sunderland, England, and a graduate of Durham School in Durham, England, and Durham University. He did post graduate work at Edinburgh University in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Turner is head of Cities Service Oil Company in Florida, and is one of the most dynamic speakers in the South.

He has a wide Scouting background and holds a five year Scoutmaster Training Award. He served as president of the South Florida Boy Scout Council in 1951-52. He is a member of Miami Kiwanis Club in 1952. He is active in a great variety of civic and church affairs in Miami.

Dr. A. H. Zealey, Jr. is in charge of arrangements for the meeting, and C. Loren Derr is chairman of the Ticket and Publicity committee. Tickets will be placed in the hands of Scouting throughout the Council. A capacity crowd is expected for this meeting.

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