

Editorials

Farmer: Strong Man, Rich Prey

In the past 12 years, America's farm operator population has dropped from about eight million to just over four million, and some folks think the farmer's position is weaker. There's considerable room for disagreement, though.

The individual farmer of today is far stronger than he was yesterday. Chiefly this is because he has had to struggle mightily to stay in farming. He has fought the battle of cost-price squeeze, and will for years to come. He has wrestled himself in adapting to a new technology. He has been battered by sweeping social changes.

In one sense, it has been a "survival of the fittest," but he has had many allies.

Science has given him machines to banish the hoe stoop, the mule heel dust in his eyes, the tobacco prime squat. Every year, many mechanical innovations ease the physical strain of farming. They leave him more

energy for new tasks, more enthusiasm for thinking and planning, more time to manage the farm and seek better markets for his products.

Agribusiness, realizing the potential in the successful farmer as a customer, has grown to serve him. It has developed the tools and the machines and the chemicals he needs, and it has hired specialists to help him use them. Government research and technology have taught him to grow more and better products on less land. For land is the one resource that can only diminish as population grows. Government inspection has helped develop quality standards for farm products.

But the very fact of his growing strength has made the farmer richer prey. A strong man is a free man and the freer the man the greater his freedom is coveted by weaker man. They

set a bewildering array of traps for him. They gun for him constantly.

There's the gold-covered trap of government overpayment for over production; the invisible trap of government paying the farmer not to produce; the trap of slashed allotments, squeezing more net yield from less land; the pin-hooker's trap, promising a sure but unfair price for surrendering the crop well before harvest; the trap of the blanket law that protects the far-away farmer but burns up the man right here; the trap of the political compromise with well-hidden teeth.

Able, strong and up-to-date farmers know these traps and step warily enough to dodge their bites; yet in the maze of conflicting trends, political wars and power struggles even the best of farmers sometimes must fall back on instinct, the survival weapon built through the years out

of kinship with nature.

For all of his prickly problems — perhaps because of them — the farmer still believes his job is the best of all possible. It is a way of life worth battling for, and the armchair agriculturists and pushbutton oracles who never followed the south end of a north-bound mule, or even ate the dust of a tractor had better realize what a formidable foe the farmer is.

He is, in the final reckoning, the best judge of how to farm.

LOVINGTON, N. M., LEADER: "Lawyers of the CIO-AFL and UAW; the legal heavy artillery of Big Unionism, are drawn up in battle array challenging the recent decision of the Florida Supreme Court that the 'agency shop' arrangement by which unions shake-down non-union members is a violation of Florida's Right to Work law. By way of blasting this ruling, they are asking the Supreme Court of the US to overrule the clearly expressed intent of Congress. Labor's big guns contend that the states have no right to enact a law prohibiting the agency shop — under which workers who refuse to join a union must pay up anyway or be fired."

CLERMONT, FLORIDA, SOUTH LAKE PRESS: "In our opinion, regimentation has gone too far already."

How long are we as citizens — God-fearing citizens, if you please — going to stand idly by while our individual rights, privileges and obligations crumble away from under our feet? The end result is tyranny, dictatorship and stifling of all those elements on which our country was founded and which have made it great."

ADEL IOWA, DALLAS CO NEWS: "Heard this one: 'One Man's Family' used to be on radio. Now it's in Washington."

MANHEIM, PA., SENTINEL: "Now that the rules on expense account deductions have been tightened, maybe we can get back to

entertaining each other just for the fun of it."

PITTSFIELD, ME., ADVERTISER: "The veteran head of a high school science department recently advised his school board that it should ask prospective science teachers, before the year hired, if they are willing to undertake further study, and should plan to help them attain it. In mid-twentieth century the first necessity of life for a science teacher is the opportunity to keep on learning."

HOWARD, S. D., MINER CO. PIONEER: "When you meet a really great man, he seems so simple and modest you gain a new faith in your own possibilities."

THE YANCEY RECORD
THURSDAY, MAY 23, 1963

Letters To The Editor

The introduction of two utility bills (SB 439 by White and SB 444 by Long) in the Senate this week appears to be an effort by the private power companies to further complicate and delay the passage of needed legislation already under consideration by the House. It is difficult to imagine that these two bills were not introduced earlier in the session if the power companies were really serious about these matters. Their introduction at this late stage in the Legislature's

deliberations will only serve to further confuse the issues, at which the private power companies are skilled in doing.

Senate Bill 439, introduced by Senator White, has virtually the same effect as the amendment he offered in 1961 which effectively killed any hope of reaching a reasonable solution to the municipal annexation of cooperative electric systems. Apparently the power companies are using the same tactics again.

Senate Bill 444, introduc-

ed by Senator Long, is as bad, if not worse, than Sections 62-110 and 62-111 of the General Statutes. It would prevent the electric co-ops from serving anything other than farms and rural residences. Service could not be made to country stores, filling stations, feed mills, schools and churches. This bill would eventually force the sale of these cooperatives to the private power companies.

It is hoped that the General Assembly will face squarely these issues and come to grips with these problems before adjournment. It will be a tragedy if the General Assembly ignores the problems, neglects their responsibility and does nothing. Two more years will pass in which the power companies can chip away at the electric cooperatives and distort public opinion by high expenditures for advertising which has been reliably estimated at 1/4 million dollars this year. Then, the 1965 General Assembly will be faced with the same problems.

House Bill 426 and House Bill 816, both by Venters and 29 others, offer a reasonable solution to the problem of municipal annexation and the duplication of facilities. They also answer the question of taxation of the electric cooperatives.

These bills should be given approval by the Legislature if they want to render a real service to the State and settle those problems. It is to be hoped they will not duck these issues.

Sincerely,
Robert W. Scott,
Chairman
N. C. Consumers
Committee
For Low-Cost Power

What Others Are Saying

FROM THE WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

There is no shortage of warnings about the threat of uncontrolled population growth throughout the world. The latest, from the National Academy of Sciences, is from a responsible source and worded dramatically. The academy declared that "other than search for lasting peace, no problem is more urgent."

The academy even offered the solution. It said, "In our judgment, this problem can be successfully attacked by developing new methods of fertility regulation and implementing programs of voluntary family planning widely and rapidly throughout the world." It urged an international program of information on the subject.

But who is to conduct this program? The work today is limited largely to private and independent organizations. As the academy noted, only a few nations have made any real effort in developing new methods of fertility regulation and programs of family planning. Social and religious factors complicate governmental programs.

Work by non-governmental agencies can be productive. For instance, the Ford Foundation is increasing its contribution in this field. Of more than \$5 million in assistance grants to underdeveloped countries announced last week by Ford, more than half will be used for training and research programs in family planning.

But this problem — un-

controlled population growth that nullifies efforts to raise living standards — demands steps at the governmental level. Programs can be developed under which the government can give assistance and information without violating social and religious principles if sincere efforts are made.

While the problems involved in governmental action are being solved, effort by independent agencies such as those by the Ford Foundation will be all the more essential. But they are not enough. A Catholic doctor is soon to publish a book titled "The Time Has Come," the time to end the battle over birth control.

The doctor, John Rock, makes a number of good arguments, among them that further research would improve the Catholic-approved rhythm method. He also notes that governmental programs could offer a variety of methods so as not to offend any principle. But the key point to be made is in his title: "The Time Has Come."

NOW YOU ARE A GRADUATE...



... What does the future hold for you? For each of you, the answer will vary with individual talents, aptitudes and ambitions. But for all of you, this is true: Right here in your own home county you will find broad scope for growth, progress and outstanding achievement in the career of your choice. Whatever your aim may be... from industry to retailing, from banking to journalism... you will find here a world of opportunities to build solidly for success. When you look to the future, look first at home!

French Broad Electric Membership Corp.

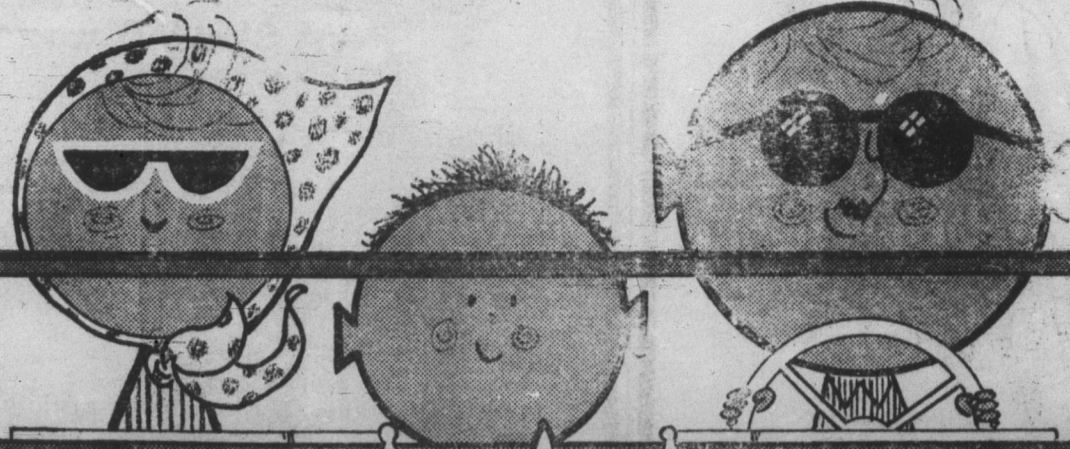
Marshall, Burnsville, Bakersville

YOU CAN GET RELIEF FROM HEADACHE PAIN

STANBACK gives you FAST relief from pains of headache, neuralgia, neuritis, and minor pains of arthritis, rheumatism. Because STANBACK contains several medically-approved and prescribed ingredients for fast relief, you can take STANBACK with confidence. Satisfaction guaranteed!



People who **SAVE** have more **FUN!**



THE NORTHWESTERN BANK

BURNSVILLE, N. C.

Enjoy your fun more by saving regularly the Northwestern way. Deposit a definite amount each payday in your Savings Account. Open or add to your Northwestern Savings Account today.