



WASHINGTON—We got the budget from the White House last week. Imagine a book larger than a catalogue—it has over 1200 pages—and in fine print. Some of the reporters called right away to see what was my reaction to the budget.

Reaction

My reaction was that it will take a long time to wade through a budget as big as this one is and one that proposes to spend about 66 billions of dollars. This being the case, it's not possible to immediately say where cuts can be made, but I honestly feel that some cuts must be made. The budget, as proposed, will show a deficit of 2.9 billions of dollars for fiscal 1955 to operate the Federal Government. I believe we must balance the budget. Commendable steps in that direction have been taken and the gap has been narrowed, but a little more fat has to be squeezed out of it. We must do this to keep from raising the national debt limit. I hope and believe Congress can find a way to do it.

Opposition

The Senate worked late at night to get the debate completed on the Saint Lawrence Seaway Bill. I voted against it. So did Senator Hoey. I feel that the construction of this project would do a lot to disturb our expanding port facilities. As you know, North Carolina has spent over seven million dollars in our port projects. There are many other reasons why the project seemed unnecessary. The Senate passed the Bill 51 to 33. It now is up to the House of Representatives.

School Bill

I joined with Senator McClellan and a number of other Senators in the introduction of a bill to provide for Federal assistance to the states in the construction of public elementary and secondary school facilities. Under the proposed bill, North Carolina would be helped. Our schools need it to take care of the rapidly expanding school population. We prepared the bill to eliminate any danger of Federal control and supervision of the public school systems of the several states. My thinking is that some of the money we are now spending overseas for eco-

nomie and can be put to good use in this country where the greatest need for assistance exists. The bill is patterned after the Hill-Burton Act which has done so much for our folks in the hospital and public health field.

Retirement

I am in favor of the Mason Bill which would allow tax exemption for all retired employees with retirement incomes up to \$125 per month. This bill is being studied by the House Ways and Means Committee and I think it is sound. It seems unfair to tax retired folks who have such a little amount of money anyway.

Letter Carriers

Delegates of the North Carolina Letter Carriers Association came by to see me last week. They were from all parts of North Carolina. As I am a member of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee, they felt that I should have the benefit of their thinking about salary increases. I was glad to see them. I told them how important all postal workers, including rural carriers, are and how they represent Uncle Sam. I think we are all proud of what the postal workers and rural carriers are

doing, and I am anxious to see that they are treated fairly.

Visit To Oxford

I am looking forward to my visit Friday in Oxford. The Tobacco Station there has done outstanding work. The people here in Washington speak most highly of it and they point out it's the largest in the world. Dr. D. M. Crooks, head of the tobacco section of the Agricultural Research Service, came by my office to invite me to see what is being done in the way of tobacco research at Beltsville, Maryland. I accepted the invitation. He knows of my interest in research. I believe it can go a long way toward solving our agricultural surplus problem.

This And That

Last week, I had the pleasure of taking ten Boy Scouts from the Oconeechee Council in North Carolina in to visit the Vice-President. They were fine representatives of youth and the outstanding work Scouting is doing. They were visiting Washington with their District Scout Director, Mr. Russell McLean of Dunn. . . . One of my Senate colleagues found himself driving a taxi the other morning during a snowstorm in order to get to work. The taxi driver was pushing the car, and when they got it started, the Senator just kept on driving for fear they would stall again. . . . The budget breaks down roughly into these chunks of the tax dollar: 68 cents for major national security; 22 cents for charges

fixed by law such as interest, veterans, grants to states, and 10 cents for other items. The income is planned this way: 43 cents from individual income taxes; 31 cents from corporation income taxes; 16 cents from excise taxes, 6 cents from customs and other taxes. That leaves four cents, which, according to the President, will have to be borrowed.

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