

Pressure Mounting for Huge Tobacco Cut in 1964

Highly placed officials this week admit that there is growing, strong sentiment in Washington from circles for a huge cut in the 1964 flue-cured tobacco acreage allocation.

All of these sentiments begin at a rock-bottom cut of not less than 15 per cent and range upward to as high as 25 per cent.

Sales on the Old Belt now, where nearly 50 per cent of some daily offerings are going into the Flue-Cured Tobacco Stabilization Co-op are not lessening the pressure for such a king-sized slice off the '64 crop.

The bad growing season caused by dry weather over much of the Old Belt, coupled with an unusually heavy crop in the southern end of the Big Eastern Belt (which includes the Kinston area) are causing companies to back away from the poor quality leaf on most Old Belt markets.

Further reasoning of the Washington desk-type farmers is that a small cut such as five per cent generally winds up with no actual

decrease in total poundage grown, since the farmers simply plant the tobacco a little closer, pour on a little more fertilizer and turn out another huge crop of poor to sorry quality tobacco.

The magnitude of this possible blow in Tobaccoland USA is startling and this year is especially meaningful in the Kinston area, since a really good growing season—the first in about four years—gave farmers in this area not only a big crop in pounds but a crop that was much better in quality than any of recent years.

Adding to the desirability of the Kinston-area crop this year was the lucky fact that more farmers this year permitted their tobacco to ripen in the field than in any time since disease resistant tobaccos became a necessity.

This combination of good weather and better cultivation practices has brought farmers who sell their tobacco in Kinston an additional six million dollars for their year's work. And this money is spread through-

out the local economy, causing a general boost in business at every level.

This year something like \$38 million dollars will be paid out on the Kinston market when sales end next Tuesday, compared to \$32.4 million last year.

All admit that the '63 crop in the Kinston area was one of the best ever housed.

But assuming that luck would run with this area again next year it would still mean close to an \$8 million cut in local farm income if as much as a 20 per cent cut is made in acreage of the 1964 tobacco crop.

Blow to Economy

This is the equivalent in one stroke of closing down an industry of 1600 workers, whose annual salary is \$5,000 each.

It also means a corresponding cut in wages earned in tobacco processing plants.

It reduces the fertilizer sold, the oil sold, the labor paid out for housing tobacco. Which, of course, is part of the overall \$8 million

loss that could fall on this area. But it is money that is taken out of the overall economy, and it will leave many big holes when and if the blow falls.

The so-called tobacco experts, among whom are found every type from pencil pushers in Washington to weekly newspaper editors, and an occasional person in the actual business of growing, buying and processing tobacco, are re-examining the tobacco program very carefully; looking for a better method of controlling production than the acreage allocation system which has proven a failure on two major fronts: First it has not cut tobacco production, and second, it has lowered rather than improved the quality of tobacco grown.

A majority of those actually in the tobacco business are still scared of poundage quotas.

The men who grow the crop fear that a switch would see another set of inequities written into regulations such as those that have been weeded out to some degree from the present acreage allocation

system. The men who buy and process tobacco fear that under a poundage system they would not get the variety of tobacco they need for blending the particular brand of cigarettes they manufacture. They say farmers would destroy all of their really sorry tobacco and bring nothing but high quality tobacco to market. They admit that some of the sorrier looking tobacco is needed in all cigaret blends to give the proper burning and flavor characteristics.

Most agree that the present acreage allocation system has enriched the "hogs" in the growing end of the business, at the expense of those farmers who simply stuck with their quotas through the years.

They have seen their quotas get smaller and smaller while the quotas of the "loophole farmers" have gotten bigger and bigger.

Whether it is '64 or '65 it is relatively safe to predict that some major changes will be made within this period on the overall tobacco program.

THE JONES COUNTY JOURNAL

NUMBER 24 TRENTON, N. C., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1963 VOLUME XV

One Mistrial, One Jury Case, One Agreement in Jones Superior Court

This week a rather unproductive term of Jones County Superior Court resulted in one mistrial, one consent agreement between litigating parties and one jury trial of a \$15 damage suit.

The jury found that S. A. Norris had a hog killed by the dog of Clayton Jones and Norris was awarded \$15 damages and interest from the date of the hog's demise.

In the consent judgment the First Citizens Bank & Trust Company agreed to accept \$1,124.62 with interest from March 23, 1963 from David L. and Ethel J. Collins in settlement of a claim. The payment is deferred over a specified period in the consent judgment.

The mistrial was in a \$15,000 suit for damages brought by Mrs. Manor Jones against the Kinston Housing Authority, who was seeking that amount of damages for an injury to her leg suffered when she visited Simon Bright Apartments in Kinston and a piece of reinforcing steel protruding from a broken curb stuck in her leg and caused her injuries that she says damaged her to the extent of \$15,000.

At the close of the presentation of Mrs. Jones' evidence counsel for the housing authority moved for non-suit, but Judge Howard Hubbard of Clinton, who presided over the court, withdrew a juror from the panel hearing the case and declared a mistrial.

In so doing he gave the plaintiff 20 days to amend her complaint and gave the housing authority an additional 30 days to answer the amended complaint.

Walter Ives Jr. is Sigma Phi Pledge

Walter Ives Jr. of Trenton route 2 was installed recently as a pledge in the North Carolina Iota Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity at Atlantic Christian College in Wilson.

Walter is a 1963 graduate of Jones Central High School and he is a freshman at ACC.

Harold Foster on Duty in Oklahoma

PFC Harold G. Foster, of Trenton, a member of the 6th Howitzer Battalion, 16th Artillery, regularly assigned to Fort Chaffee, Ark., is on special duty in support of The Artillery and Missile Center, Fort Sill, Okla. Foster's unit arrived at Fort Sill Oct. 14.

During their duty at Fort Sill, members of the 6th Battalion will conduct fire demonstrations and training missions for the students at the center.

Foster, son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Foster, is a wireman in the battalion's Battery B at Fort Chaffee. He entered the Army in October 1962 and completed basic combat training at Fort Gordon, Ga.

Teachers Association Hears Supt. Harriett

The Jones County Unit of the North Carolina Teachers Association met at J. W. Willie Elementary School on Wednesday, October 22. G. W. Harriett, Superintendent of Schools, was the main speaker at the meeting.

He explained to the teachers the importance of belonging to the professional organizations, from the local through state and national organizations. He cited the tremendous gains which the teaching professions has made through the efforts of the united forces for education, and the National Education Association.

Harriett also explained to the teachers the new provisions made for teachers to purchase tax sheltered annuities for retirement purposes. His explanation of the general features of the retirement system was informative to the teachers.

Other highlights of the meeting included a report on teacher ethics by the professional standards committee, led by Mrs. Arletha Wynn. The Classroom Teachers Association of the N.E.A. was formally

Jones Central Future Teachers Hear Taylor

Jeter Taylor of the New Bern High School faculty spoke to the Future Teachers Club at Jones Central High School on October 22.

Taylor talked about the teaching profession as a teacher and coach, pointing out the attractive features as well as the unattractive ones.

The meeting was presided over by Polly McDaniel and Harry Mallard introduced the speaker.

Brenda Parker and Mary L. Cox were in charge of the social committee.

Bookmobile Schedule FRIDAY — NOVEMBER 8

Pleasant Hill	10:00-10:30
Howard Store,	
Taylor's Corner	10:45-11:00
Comfort Ele. School	11:15-12:30
Fannie Nicholson's	
Home, Comfort	1:00- 2:30
Whaley's Chapel	2:45- 3:00
Doc Jones Store	3:10- 3:40
Turner's Chapel	3:50- 4:15

Unusually Heavy Week For Local Law Officers

Market Closing 5th

Tuesday the Kinston Tobacco Board of Trade voted to close 1963 sales at the end of sales on Tuesday of next week, November 5th.

The board expressed its thanks to the thousands of farmers who sold their tobacco in Kinston this year and made the 1963 season one of the most successful in recent years. Through last week's sales the local market had sold \$2,228,084 pounds compared to \$5,805,410 for the entire '62 season and had paid out that year \$37,482,017.77 compared to \$32,413,662.38 for the full '62 season. This year's average through last week stood at \$60.23 compared to \$58.08 for last year.

BRIEF FLING

Kinston police Saturday night arrested Patricia Grant and Delphina Merritt, who were charged with being escapees from The Dobbs Farm.

Installed by the local unit, Mrs. M. S. Vaughn was elected president.

Trials and Submissions 20 Cases from Docket Jones Recorders Court

Jones County Negro Shoots Wife Sunday

Twenty four year-old Alex Koonce, a negro tenant on the Taft Pollock farm in northern Jones County, is free under \$5,000 bond, charged with the Sunday afternoon shotgun slaying of his 22 year-old wife, Jean Murphy Koonce.

Koonce told Jones County officers that he had been to a neighbor's home to borrow some shotgun shells for a hunting trip he had planned for Monday.

When he got home he said his wife was whipping one of their children and they got in an argument over her whipping the child.

Koonce said she grabbed the shotgun out of a corner and lunged toward him, but he managed to grab the gun and fired the shot that killed her. He admitted that he stepped back about three steps before pulling the trigger, however.

Koonce was released Tuesday afternoon under a \$5,000 bond signed by Puyear Cobb Jr. of Kinston route 6 and Willie Foy of Kinston.

Unusually Heavy Week For Local Law Officers

In addition to the weekend murder which is covered in another story in this issue of the Journal, Jones County officers had a much more busy time than usual in the past week.

A goodly part of this came from investigations into the forgery of two checks on Mrs. Albert Taylor and W. C. Jones. This investigation led to the indictment of five youths all from Pollockville or Pollockville route 1.

The five accused are Johnny McRea, Elva Eugene Miller, Thomas Jefferson Roberts, Edward Lee Murrell and Melvin Sherwood Boone.

Other arrests include two on charges of drunken driving of James A. Kinsey and John Lee Brown, both of Pollockville route 1.

Three persons were accused of public drunkenness: Preston Lee Bryant of Trenton, Eddie Lee Wooten of Pollockville route 1 and David Strayhorn of Pollockville.

And Carl Edward Davis of Pollockville route 1 was booked on charge of speeding 70 miles an hour.

In recent sessions, submissions to Court Clerk Walter Henderson and trials by Judge Nick Noble have cleared 20 cases from the docket of Jones County Recorder's Court.

Seventeen of the charges were for traffic violations and the other three were for passing worthless checks and public drunkenness.

Charles Redding of Jacksonville and W. N. Scott of Richlands were ordered to make good checks they had issued and pay the court costs and James F. Sawyer of Chinquapin paid the court costs for public drunkenness.

The most serious of the traffic charges were for drunken driving against James Calvin Kinsey of Pollockville route 1 and Delmas Meadows of Maysville. Meadows was fined \$100 but he gave notice of appeal to superior court. Kinsey was given a 90-day jail term suspended on payment of a \$100 fine. He paid off.

Eddie Lee Wooten of Pollockville route 1 paid a \$15 fine and costs for permitting another person to use an improperly registered vehicle.

In the speeding department the following paid the fines listed just after their names: Manley Baker \$10, James C. Parker \$5, Thomas Edward Adams of New Bern route 4 \$10, and a speeding charge against Roy Thomas Merrill of Swansboro route 1 was not pressed with leave since the court has been unable to find the defendant, but the case will remain against him so if he does turn up he can still be tried, but it will be removed from the court's active docket.

Robert Lawrence Dove of Trenton Route 2 paid a \$10 fine for reckless driving.

The following paid the costs for driving improperly equipped vehicles: Bobby Ray Sanderson of Pink Hill route 1, Arthur Lee Taft of Dover route 2, George B. Grady of Dover route 2, Austin Willie Smith of Pollockville route 1 and John Bright of Maysville route 1.

Reginald Elmer Foy of Pollockville and Fred Mills Jr. of Pink Hill route 1 were each assessed the costs for making improper turns, and Mills appealed the judgment to superior court.

Cicero Latham Riggs of Cove City paid the costs for failing to stop at a stop sign and Mary Meadows Rhodes of Pollockville route 1 paid the costs for violating the provisions of her driving license.