

LOOKING AT WASHINGTON

By Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent

PARITY FOR FARMERS ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS THREE FACTORS INVOLVED COTTON AND WHEAT LOANS UPHOLD PRICES COURT CHANGES MIND PRIMARIES ARE ELECTIONS

When President Roosevelt signed the Farm Loan Bill, providing Government loans to farmers for eighty-five per cent. of the parity value of five basic commodities, he stated that it reflected the "Government's objective for the past eight years" and reflected "the fact that the farmers did not have and have not had as great a share of the national income as other groups."

Farm leaders in Congress hailed the new labor law as placing "a floor under farm prices similar to the floor already under wages." Representative Cannon said that "for the first time in history, the farmer is guaranteed a parity price," and Edward A. O'Neill, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, says that the law "marks the end of a twenty-year fight" for parity and means that in 1941, the farmers will receive for their crops "prices which will represent fair exchange values in buying the goods and services produced by other groups."

Before signing the bill, the President pointed out that when it becomes law, the cooperating farmer will be able to receive an eighty-five per cent. parity loan, plus a cash parity payment, plus a cash soil conservation payment. He added that "under no circumstances should the sum of these three exceed parity," and asserted that he had received letters from legislative leaders chiefly responsible for the Loan Law agreeing, in effect, that the broad intention is that parity payments should if necessary, be so curtailed "as to avoid a price above parity when added to the loan and the soil conservation payments."

The 1942 national wheat acreage allotment has been set at 55,000,000 acres, which represents a reduction of 7,000,000 acres from 1941. The Department of Agriculture says the reduction is intended to aid farmers in meeting the problem of export market losses and mounting surplus.

We call attention to this matter because we think it important for the people of the United States, as well as those who grow wheat, to understand the methods used to determine the acreage of wheat, cotton and other crops.

The acreage allotment is adjusted each year so that, with the prospective carry-over, it will provide wheat for normal domestic consumption, normal export and at least a thirty per cent. reserve. Wheat growers now face a prospective carry-over of approximately 500,000,000 bushels on July 1, 1942. The 55,000,000 acre allotment is the minimum provided by law but above the level necessary and the Department warns that "above normal reserves continue a definite part of the U. S. wheat situation for at least two or three years."

The situation in regard to cotton is somewhat similar. Cotton growers face a record carry-over when the new cotton year begins this summer. Obviously, with a year's supply on hand, the unlimited production of cotton, or any other crop, will mean pauper prices for the producers. Consequently, the Government has found it necessary to provide loans on wheat, cotton, tobacco and rice which prevent prices from falling below a certain level.

The justification for Government loans on these basic farm products is to be found, in part, in national policies which have penalized agriculture in favor of industry and in the cold stark necessity of preventing the standard of living of our farmers from deteriorating. Obviously, with huge carry-overs, it would be

foolish for the Government to adopt a loan policy unless the growers willingly accept acreage allotments in order to prevent the Government from being swamped.

We think it is very important for non-farmers to understand that in fixing the acreage allotments of the various crops, the Department of Agriculture takes into consideration the three factors listed above. As closely as possible, the agricultural experts determine the normal domestic consumption, normal export and add a thirty per cent. reserve. This total represents the probable market for the crop during the coming year and, in connection with the carry-over of the crop from present and preceding years, provides the background for the national allotment.

Twenty years ago, the United States Supreme Court refused to sustain the conviction of Truman H. Newberry for irregularities in his sensational campaign, the Court holding five-to-four that Congress was powerless to interfere with primaries.

Justice McReynolds, who wrote the opinion, filed May 2, 1921, held that "primaries are in no sense elections for an office but merely methods by which party adherents agree upon the candidates they intend to offer and support for ultimate choice by qualified electors."

Last week, by a four-to-three decision, the Supreme Court, in a decision written by Justice Stone, said that the Constitution (Sections 2 and 4 of Article I) "requires us to hold a primary election which involves a necessary step in the choice of candidates for election of representatives in Congress and which, in the circumstances of this case, controls that choice, is an election within the meaning of the Constitutional provision and is subject to congressional regulation as to the manner of holding it."

Chief Justice Hughes did not participate in the Court decision, because as Counsel for Senator Newberry, he argued his case before the Supreme Court in 1921. Justices Black and Murphy, in which they conceded congressional rights to deal with primaries but declared that "Congress, through the years," had refused to intrude in this field and Justice Douglas asserted that "this Court is legislating."

We call particular attention to this decision, not because of its importance, although election procedure experts view the decision as a very vital one, but to demonstrate to our readers the working of the American system. The Supreme Court, representing the judicial branch of the Government, plays its part in the life of the nation, and, as in the present instance, at times reverses its position.

Twenty years ago the Supreme Court said, "Primaries are in no sense elections for an office," but, in 1941, the Supreme Court says, "A primary election . . . is an election . . . subject to congressional regulation." Such changes in the judicial interpretations of the Constitution and Statutes are inevitable and represent some of the necessary shifting which makes the framework of democracy fit existing conditions.

CENTER HILL NEWS

Miss Nellie Blanche Stanford and friends from Swan Quarter, spent the week-end at White Lake.

Miss Ruth Lane, who is nursing in a Washington hospital, spent the week-end with her sister, Mrs. J. I. Boyce, and Mr. Boyce.

Mrs. G. E. Hollowell and daughter, Miss Anna Mae Hollowell, visited Mrs. Tom Forehand and Mrs. Wayland Jordan Monday afternoon.

Miss Louise Upchurch has returned to her home at Mt. Gilead, after spending last week as the guest of her sister, Mrs. Elliott Belch, and Mr. Belch.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Boyce and son, Ernest, Jr., visited Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Boyce Sunday.

Rev. and Mrs. J. T. Stanford and daughter, Miss Nellie Blanche Stanford, visited J. G. Campen, in Albemarle Hospital, Elizabeth City, Tuesday.

Mrs. Alfred Lane, of Elizabeth City, spent a few days last week as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Lane and Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Boyce.

Mrs. Joseph Hollowell and children, of Sunbury, visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Byrum, Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Parker, of Norfolk, Va., spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Bunch. Accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Bunch, Mr. and Mrs. Parker went to Morehead City Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. William Lane and daughter, Patricia, of Norfolk, Va., spent the week-end with his mother, Mrs. Lane accompanied them back to Norfolk for a visit.

Miss Melba Chappell spent the week-end in Edenton as the guest of Miss Gene Bunch.

Jesse Ellis, of Norfolk, Va., spent Thursday with his mother, Mrs. Ida Ellis.

Mr. and Mrs. James Cale, of Newport News, Va., visited with Mrs. W. F. Cale and the Rev. Frank Cale during the week-end. They were accompanied home by Montgomery Cale, who will accept employment there.

Miss Dorothy Bragg, Miss Mary Leary, O. C. Long, Mrs. Willie Byrum and daughter, Shirley, visited Mrs. Cameron Boyce Monday afternoon.

Mrs. Ida Reed visited her sister, Mrs. Annie Twine, of near Cannon's Ferry, Monday afternoon.

Miss Artlissa White, of Greenville, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. White.

Mr. and Mrs. Silas White spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Ward.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Boyce spent Sunday at Ocean View, Va.

Miss June Lane, of Norfolk, Va., is visiting her aunt, Miss Tommie Goodwin.

Mrs. Mattie Evans, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. White, Miss Ruth Lane, E. C. Perry, T. E. Jernigan and J. I. Boyce visited Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Furry Sunday afternoon.

Fate Whiteman, of Norfolk, Va., spent the week-end with his family.

Mrs. Gussie Perry and Miss Beulah Perry, of Rocky Hock, were guests of Mrs. Fate Whiteman Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Dail and children, of Norfolk, Va., visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Dail, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Smith and children, of Portsmouth, Va., spent Memorial Day with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Goodwin.

C. M. Ward, Jr., of Hertford, spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Ward.

Miss Norma Jernigan spent the week-end with Miss Delsie Jordan.

Mrs. R. H. Goodwin called to see Mrs. A. L. Hobbs Monday afternoon.

Mrs. J. T. White had the misfortune to fall from the door steps last week, painfully injuring her shoulder.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. McNider, of Elizabeth City, spent Memorial Day with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Bunch.

Mrs. Charles Bunch visited her sister, Mrs. Jesse Dail, Sunday afternoon.

Farmers Face Problems In Combining Grain

Harvesting small grain with combines has become a definite practice in rural North Carolina. Hundreds of baby machines have been bought by farmers within the past few years.

D. S. Weaver, head of the State College Department of Agricultural Engineering, says three major problems have been encountered by users of the improved machinery for harvesting grain. They find it hard to properly harvest grain with a high moisture content; they have discovered that the machines have to be operated at the proper speed; and they have learned that the machinery must be adjusted in accordance with the type of grain being harvested.

Probably the greatest losses, said Weaver, are caused by having too little clearance with the concaves and the cylinder of the combine. This has a tendency to grind the straw so fine that it is impossible to separate the grain from this finely chopped straw. It is much better to have an occasional grain of wheat left in the heads than it is to set up such conditions that further separation of the grain and the finely chopped straw is impossible.

Finally, the State College man declared, the combine should be operated at the speed recommended by the manufacturer. Slight variations from the adjusted rate may be justified by differences in the condition of the crop and by the height of cutting.

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First, he says, grain which has a moisture content of more than 14 percent cannot be safely combined. As a general rule, the combine should be put in the grain about ten days after the grain would normally be cut with a binder. Very little wheat is lost by shattering if the grain is too ripe.

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BURGESS CLUB MEETS

The Burgess Home Demonstration Club met with Mrs. Winston E. Lane at her home Wednesday afternoon. The meeting was opened by singing "God Bless America", after which the Collect was repeated. The secretary called the roll and read the minutes of the last meeting.

Miss Maness made announcements concerning the tour of Norfolk gardens and the Cotton Stamp plan.

Mrs. Winston E. Lane, chairman of the Foods committee, gave the following program: Song, "It's A Good Time to Get Together"; reading, More Nutritious Flour, by Mrs. J. B. Basnight; reading, Vitamines in the Diet, by Mrs. Tommie Matthews. Miss Maness gave an interesting demonstration on pictures and showed various types of pictures for different rooms of the home.

Those present were: Mesdames Seaton Davenport, C. B. Parker, Linwood Hunter, Winston E. Lane, Irwin Whedbee, C. D. Rountree, Sidney Layden, Walton Lane, Tommie Matthews, J. B. Basnight, L. A. Overton and Miss Frances Maness. The hostess served delicious ice cream and cake.



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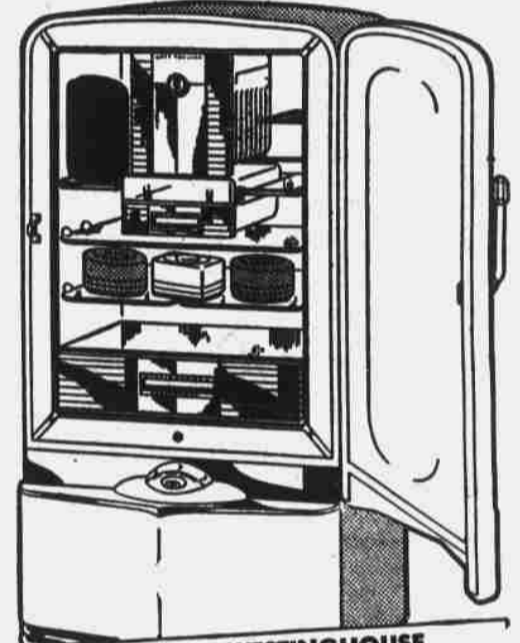


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Rules of the Road

RECKLESS DRIVING

Section 102, Motor Vehicle Laws of North Carolina—"Any person who drives any vehicle upon a highway carelessly and heedlessly in willful or wanton disregard of the rights or safety of others, or without due caution and circumspection and at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person or property, shall be guilty of reckless driving . . ."

This means that, regardless of speed laws, every driver is required to drive with caution and with regard for the rights of other individuals at all times. You can be guilty of reckless driving when going only 30 miles per hour on an open highway where the maximum speed limit is 60 miles per hour.

Famous Swiss Wind

The Fohn is one of the best-known winds in Switzerland. It is estimated to blow for 17 days in spring, 5 days in summer and 10 days in autumn. The Fohn is a warm wind. It often brings fine weather for several days, but a sudden change must always be expected.

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