

# SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS



Washington—I had hoped that it would not be necessary to return to the Capitol until the beginning of the next session of Congress in January. Such hopes were futile, however, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Senate had to convene to hear certain matters. That made it necessary for me to return to the Capitol for these hearings as I am a member of the Subcommittee.

**Subject To Change**  
It is difficult to arrange a schedule of speaking engagements in advance. It is virtually impossible to plan ahead when the Senate is in session, as one never knows when a vote on legislation of a major nature will occur. For this reason I have kept engagements of this nature to a minimum during the session and have tried to accept all possible during the recess. I enjoy getting around North Carolina and meeting the people. Although it is strenuous activity, it is rewarding in that one gets the views of the people in all walks of life. I have made approximately 48 speeches in about 30 counties since leaving Washington after the Congress adjourned. I have also visited many other places not for a talk but simply to meet the people, make new friends and renew old friendships.

It is well to remember that any Congressman's schedule is always subject to change on only a moment's notice.

**Prayer Room**  
Washington is said to have the best organized confusion. It also has some of the finest things in the world. I am proud of the Prayer Room which was added to the Capitol last year. A small room was set aside on the west side of the rotunda for Senators and Representatives with facilities for prayer and meditation. It is a non-denominational chapel. The furnishings are simple but appropriate. On the altar rests an open Bible, and nearby stands our Nation's flag. There is a stained glass window through which subdued light reveals the kneeling figure of George Washington in fervent prayer.

**Hearings**  
There has been some political criticism of Congressional hearings on the farm situation. I think this is regrettable. The Senate Agriculture Committee made plans a long time ago, as I understand it, to hold the hearings to see how the farm program was working out. The fact that the hearings have come at a time when farm prices have continued to fall has no relevant relationship to the plans made a long time ago. As I am not a member of the Committee on Agriculture, I will certainly want to have the benefit of careful testimony before voting on farm legislation in the next Session. This is a vital committee function, and I think that there has been a definite service rendered in seeing what the farm people and others are thinking. It is obvious that farm legislation will be the first order of business in January. Partisans who charge political implications in the committee's activity should review the reasons and background for the hearings. There is a problem to face and the more enlightened the Congress is on the problem will serve a valuable purpose to the Nation.

## News Report From Washington

**Benson Still Under Pressure—Farmers Need A Lift—Tax Cut Still Indicated—Like And Knowland**

Washington—Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Benson is still under very heavy pressure to take some immediate action to give the farmer a lift despite the backing he recently received from President Eisenhower.

Already the Secretary has surprised many political observers with steadfastness of his opposition to taking action, which would improve the political climate for the Republicans. There are members of the Republican party who feel that Benson's politics could be fatal to a G.O.P. candidate next year other than Eisenhower.

But Benson is admittedly a sincere opponent of returning to the high-fixed supports program on the ground that it will only build up greater and greater surpluses. His critics, even in the G.O.P. suspect he may be right in principle, but they think the present situation is so critical the Administration must be practical first.

And the practical thing to do—according to many of Benson's critics—is to find a way to give the farmer a helping hand before it is too late. This can be done if Benson would announce his support for a land-rental plan, or some other plan which would bring money to the farmer next year.

Benson, however, has not been inclined to accept proposals to create a soil fertility bank, as it is called, by government rental of a farmer's land. Yet this may be the least objectionable of all practical

political courses open to him, if he is to take his play in the coming session of the 84th Congress.

Whatever happens in the next few months, the Department of Agriculture is going to make a report to the National Agricultural Advisory Commission concerning its study of seven different soil bank plans in December. This report may become the basis for some sort of G.O.P. program to get the Administration off the hook and take the initiative away from the Democrats in January, when Congress convenes.

Although some surprising opposition to a tax cut has bobbed up in the last two weeks, chances are excellent, still, that Congress will slash taxes in next year's session. Tax collections are running heavy and government revenue will probably be higher than was estimated.

Government expenditures may be a bit higher than estimated also, but economies planned by the Defense Department, and to a lesser extent by other government agencies, may make both a balanced budget and tax cuts possible next year.

Of course, both Democrats and Republicans will seek to get the credit for any tax reduction bill and the final bill will be a Democratic one. The President may face a ticklish job when his time to sign or veto that bill arrives.

Mr. Eisenhower, it is said, will

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## His Title Picked



**P. E. SHOULARS**  
From more than 250 suggested subjects submitted by agricultural workers over the state for the 1956 Cooperative Essay Contest, that of P. E. Shoulars, agriculture teacher at the Southwood School near Kingston, was selected. His title was "How Our Farm Surplus Can Help Win the Battle for World Peace." The contest is open to all rural high school boys and girls and is sponsored annually by the Farmers Cooperative Exchange and the N. C. Cotton Growers Association.

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not sign a bill that cuts revenue so much, nor will he sign a purely political bill, giving relief to lower income groups exclusively. But chances are good that he will get a bill he can sign, since both parties are now afraid of going on record as opposed to tax cuts, and will shy away from having that label hung on them in the next session of Congress.

Proving that he is still very much unpredictable, Senate Republican Leader William Knowland surprised some of his friends recently, only a few days after he had lined up solidly behind the President on the farm issue, by saying Mr. Eisenhower should say whether he is going to fish or cut bait and say it quickly.

Knowland said Ike should decide whether he is in or out of politics by late fall or early winter. That would seem like a word of advice to Ike to say something before Congress meets in January, or during that month, at the latest.

Knowland, who could be a Republican candidate himself, if Ike doesn't run, has always been outspoken on the issues of the day, even when he disagrees with the President. He said before Ike's

annual meeting of the N. C. Farm Bureau scheduled Nov. 20-23. The 20th annual convention of the North Carolina Farm Bureau

Federated will be held at the St. Walker Hotel in Raleigh November 20-23.

Farm Bureau members will stream into the capital city on Sunday, November 20, for a three-day event that will climax the Bureau's activities for the past year.

Heading this year's array of guest speakers, will be Charles H. Shuman, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation. Shuman will speak at 10:40 A. M., on Tuesday, and afterwards will appear on the Chapel Hill Television Channel.

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heart attack, that the party would have no reluctant candidates against next year—an obvious trap at Ike's feet.

Knowland also has blasted Ike's foreign policy on numerous occasions. He has stood behind the President, generally, on domestic policy. But he wants Ike to speak out on his plans soon. The indications are that Ike will not oblige him.

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