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STATE FARM BUREAU CHIEF WANTS ADJUSTMENTS IN COTTON QUOTAS

General Meeting for Cotton States To Make Recommendations for Amendments to Law.

E. H. Agnew, president of the South Carolina Farm Bureau, has issued a statement in which he attacks the secretary of agriculture for refusing to permit use of the permissive 15 per cent reserve by state and county Production Marketing Administration committees for correcting inequalities in quotas. As a result, he says, many cotton farmers are very unhappy over the prospects.

Mr. Agnew's statement follows:

In the proposed amendments to the cotton acreage allotment and marketing quota law, the belt-wide cotton committee and the American Farm Bureau Federation recommended inclusion of a provision for dealing with "frozen acres" — those acres that might be allotted to individual farms in excess of the acreage desired for planting on those farms.

The provision was included in the original bill, S. 1962, introduced by Senator Clinton P. Anderson and passed by the senate. It was omitted from the house version of the bill and excluded from the conference report which became law. As a substitute for this provision was the permissive 15 per cent reserve by state and county PMA committees for correcting inequities.

Failure to use such reserves has resulted in some rather serious inequities to the extent that many large planters are being forced to take cuts in acreage up to 60 to 70 per cent.

A sub-committee of the house agriculture committee last week met in Washington to try to remedy these inequities. The committee recommended: (a) That the secretary of agriculture request farmers who will not plant all or any part of their cotton acreage allotments to release the same to their local county PMA committee and that he authorize such committee to reallocate such acreage within the county; and (b) That the congress amend the cotton quota act so as to provide that "no farm cotton acreage allotment established for the 1950 crop in conformity with regulations of the secretary of agriculture shall be less than the larger of 70 per centum of the average acreage actually planted to cotton on the farm in 1946, 1947 and 1948, or 50 per centum of the highest acreage planted to cotton, or regarded as planted to cotton under public law 212, 79th congress, on the farm in any one of such three years."

Obviously, the secretary cannot comply with the first committee recommendation, but he has flatly refused to do so. Just as obviously, the secretary cannot comply with the second recommendation until congress has changed the law. Therefore, it is now evident that cotton farmers will remain status quo for the 1950 crop. Many of them are very unhappy over the prospect.

Congress intended that the 15 per cent reserves be used to take care of hardship cases at county and farm levels. It now seems that the secretary is failing to carry out the intent of congress through faulty administration. His action in refusing to comply with the request that he instruct county PMA committees to request return of cotton acreage not desired for planting for redistribution within the county is evidence of his desire not to fully cooperate. His apparent attitude is generally attributed to two reasons: (1) that the revisions to the law were not nearly in conformity to department (USDA) recommendations, and (2) that he would likely find fertile ground on which to sow seeds of his (Brannan) Plan if farmers can be made that extremely dissatisfied in 1950.

USDA recommended to Congress that reserves of 10 per cent of state and county levels would be sufficient with which to make needed adjustments between counties and between farms within counties. Congress acceded to this request and later increased the permitted state and county reserves to 15 per cent of the total state and county allotment. These permitted reserves were not used according to suggested recommendations of USDA to congress. Therefore, Congress is to blame for failure of administration of the law.

Certainly, present conditions do not indicate any relief from acreage restrictions that cotton growers had themselves envisioned for 1950. Mr. Brannan will lay it at the Congress. Congress will say it was the Secretary.

The net result will likely be a hot political fight in 1950 over farm legislation. The Brannan Plan will come in for plenty of condemnation, good and bad, mostly bad.

Congress will find it impossible to act in time to give relief for 1950 through revisions of the law. The Secretary will likely continue to refuse to do anything that he is not compelled to do under the law. The overwhelming favorable vote for quotas indicates that most farmers prefer the present provisions for a quota program to no program. Most of them are satisfied, but many would surrender unwanted cotton acreage to their neighbors if they had a chance.

A general meeting of representatives from cotton states Farm Bureau organizations will be held at an early date to formulate recommendations to Congress for amendments to the present law so that a proper cotton acreage control program may be effective in 1951 and thereafter.

S. C.'s March Of Dimes Goal Is $400,000

South Carolina's goal for the 1950 March of Dimes campaign is $400,000, State Campaign Chairman Dr. James A. Hayne has announced.

"We have completed our organizations for the drive in every county of the state and we expect a successful campaign this year," Hayne said. The campaign dates are January 16-31.

The 1949 infantile paralysis campaign netted $213,000 in South Carolina. During the year the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis spent $225,000 in the state to hospitalize and care for polio victims, Hayne noted.

"South Carolina, therefore, has an obligation to meet the $400,000 goal," he explained. "This amount is needed to meet treatment costs in the state, to help on research to find a way to prevent polio and to help rebuild the foundation's emergency epidemic fund."

Reports from national headquarters said a 1949 polio epidemic in the United States exhausted the foundation's epidemic fund and depleted its funds set aside for research work.

Good Collection Made In '49 Taxes, Treasurer Reports

According to Sam M. Leaman, county treasurer, $385,000 in 1949 taxes was collected at the close of December. The first penalty of 1 per cent went on for January, it will be increased 2 per cent in February, 3 per cent in March and 7 per cent April 1st when all unpaid taxes go into execution.

The total tax bill for the year was $453,220.58, Treasurer Leaman reported. The $385,000 collected represents a 84 per cent collection he said, about the same as last year.

Holiday Death Toll Hits 425

Four hundred twenty-five persons died violently in accidents during the three-day new year holiday but the toll wasn't as heavy as expected.

Accidents involving automobiles killed 270 persons. This traffic death figure was 61 under the 330 deaths predicted for the period by the National Safety Council. Fires claimed 54 lives, and there were 101 deaths from other types of accidents.

Although the 269 auto deaths during the 78-hour period from 6 p. m. Friday to midnight Monday were actually fewer than the 276 average for such a period during the first 11 months of 1949, the Safety Council said the number of persons who will die of injuries received during the holiday week end probably will boost the holiday figure above the average.

General Sales Tax For State Is Now Proposed

Columbia, Jan. 3. A general sales tax may be proposed to put the government finances of South Carolina in the red.

That they are in the red was revealed by the State Budget Commission in its annual report made to the House ways and means committee last night.

Rep. Jame Hooks, of Mc[illegible], a committee member, suggested the committee draft a joint resolution calling for a 1950 general election referendum on whether the people want a sales tax to support schools.

No action was taken on the proposal. The committee [illegible] a week or more of meetings on a 1950-51 general appropriations bill.

Current revenues of the state, the budget report said, are $2,812,424 less than present spending, and a deficit of $147,000,000.

The loss is being made up from the treasury $4,000,000 surplus that was on hand as of June 30.

This difference between revenue and spending comes entirely from the state's general fund, [illegible] by $71,500,000. The [illegible] budget recommends [illegible] highway funds, federal [illegible] educational and other [illegible].

To prevent a recurrence of this and to keep the state's financial operations in the credit side of the ledger, the commission says its spending must be reduced.

It recommends an overall budget of $143,000,000.

The committee voted 11-8 against a motion by Rep. Sol Blatt, of Barnwell to accept the commission's suggested appropriations.

If its suggested appropriations are not adopted, the budget report declared, the state may lose its recently-acquired double-A rating on its bond issues and its generally "good" financial standing.

If new taxes are added or taxes increased, the budget commission warned, then the state's tax structure, which it says [illegible] funds attractive, will be lost.

If made these economy recommendations to the ways and means as the House committee began meetings to draft a 1950-51 appropriations bill for introduction [illegible] the General Assembly [illegible] Jan. 10.

Reduce department and agency allotments five per cent, give teachers a $1,000,000, rather than a $8,000,000 pay increase, reduce counties' share in state income taxes from 7½ to 5½ per cent, reduce the counties' share in alcoholic beverage taxes from 35 to 25 per cent, reduce state employees' [illegible] increase [illegible] $80 to $100 a year.

Members of the committee are Governor Tarlmont Speaker Rucker, Chairman Edgar A. Brown of Ways and Means, Chairman Charles N. Plowden.

Plowden said the committee planned to ask some state department heads to appear before it this week. He said indications were it might take the committee three weeks to write the money bill, rather than just this week as had been anticipated.

Henderson Resigns Orphanage Position

R. P. Henderson, superintendent of the Thornwell orphanage farm and poultry departments, has resigned the position effective December 15.

The institution's executive committee has announced that Robert L. Wilkham, a graduate of the University of Georgia farm and husbandry, has been named to succeed Mr. Henderson.

Mr. and Mrs. Henderson will move to Greenville, S. C., where Mr. He[illegible] has accepted a position with an African Films firm.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS HONOR ROLL

Have THE CHRONICLE come into your home every Thursday morning during 1950. The cost is less than 4c a week. We invite new subscriptions, anywhere, all payable in advance.

Welcome and thanks to those on our Honor Roll this week:

MRS. D. C. HEUSTESS,
Due West.
I. E. PIKE,
Laurens.
MRS. J. L. DAVIS,
Norfolk, Va.
MRS. C. H. McCRARY, JR.,
Clinton.
J. B. HUMPHRIES,
Lydia Mills.

SERVICES AT LYDIA

G. B. Sheppard and Duvil Weathers of Laurens will speak at Lydia Presbyterian church Sunday morning at 11 o'clock. The public is invited to attend the service.

Democratic Party Machinery In State To Start In March

Columbia, Jan. 2. The machinery of the Democratic party of South Carolina was set in motion for 1950 much earlier than usual.

Everything from the registration of Democrats in the precincts to the holding of the first primary will be moved up a month. The cycle of events will take place between the fourth Saturday in March and the second Tuesday in July.

The change in advance the date of party elections was made at the state convention of 1948. A resolution was made at the party conventions of that year that an earlier date be adopted. Some [illegible] of the state Democratic party [illegible] dates for 1950 [illegible] last year. The [illegible] A [illegible] Democrats in the Pendleton District [illegible] Democrat.

The 1950 primary [illegible] Democrats [illegible] Democrat.

[illegible] in August.

Here are the tentative dates for 1950:

March 25, fourth Saturday, organization of precinct clubs.

April 8, Saturday, Monday, [illegible]

April 19, third Wednesday, state convention.

April 25, fourth Tuesday, county [illegible] books open.

May 23, fourth Tuesday, enrollment books close.

July 11, second Tuesday, primary.

Mrs. J. C. Chandler Passes At Ripe Age, Rites At Cross Hill

Mrs. Agnes Austin Chandler, widow of J. C. Chandler, died early Thursday morning at the home of her daughter, Mrs. C. B. McE[illegible], in Cross Hill. She had been in failing health for some time and had been confined to her home for several weeks. She was a member of the Cross Hill Baptist church.

The deceased was the daughter of the late [illegible] and Mrs. Tom Cook. [illegible] Mrs. Chandler was married to J. C. Chandler [illegible] large [illegible] farmer and merchant [illegible] bankers [illegible] Laurens County [illegible] trade.

The following nephews served as pallbearers: F. R. Austin, J. H. Austin, Tom Hage Austin, B. B. Austin, W. P. Austin and H. [illegible] Boyd.

Mrs. Chandler was a member of the class of 1909 at Mary Baldwin Seminary. [illegible] Austin Sch[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]