

Inflation Can Hurt Everybody

The people of the United States are beginning to wonder whether the expenditures necessitated by the defense program will result in inflationary prices and thus carry us to another pinnacle from which we will inevitably descend into another depression.

It may be said at the beginning that the first requisite for another depression is a period of inflation. Consequently, responsible economic experts in and out of the government are agreed that steps should be taken to prevent advancing prices which will culminate in a wild orgy of buying.

With the increased tempo of defense spending, the people of the United States will have more money to spend. It is also certain that as industrial plants turn from normal production into the production of defense materials, the shortage of goods may become pronounced.

GIVEN MORE MONEY and fewer goods, it is certain that prices will go up as prospective buyers bid against each other for decreasing supplies. This will be the case in any free economy. Conse-

quently, the Government is almost compelled to take steps to limit the buying power of the public.

As we understand it (and we admit that we do not know all about it) this can be done in several ways.

One is to set a price upon goods and commodities. Another is to provide heavy taxation in order to drain off excess purchasing power. This end can also be accomplished if the people of the country invest in Government bonds for defense financing. Another way to prevent inflation is for the federal government to eliminate all unnecessary civilian employes, thus cutting down the federal budget.

WE HOPE THE PEOPLE of the United States will be smart enough to encourage the government to take whatever steps are necessary to prevent a repetition of the inflationary orgy which developed in the United States after the first World War.

The remedy may seem to be harsh now but it will be easy if it enables the nation to avoid a disastrous depression after the defense effort is unnecessary.

From Our Point of View

As a nation, presidents for undesired but possible war, Grand Truman again and again find it necessary to "conscript" practical and successful men to handle national affairs. When the chips are down, untired theories of "planners" don't carry human beings very far toward security.

Leadership in Michigan's Republican Party is not very strong. It appears to be in the hands of self-seeking people, in and out of public office. Republicanism in Michigan never will reach its former strength until its leaders determine to achieve objectives that help and protect ALL our citizens.

We find it had enough to have to hear some radio programs, let alone television forcing us to see them as well.

So They Say . . .

Karl Sax, botanist and population expert: "Persons who live in poverty and ignorance have little or no responsibility to either their children or their country."

Harry F. Byrd, U. S. Senator from Virginia: "Conditions confronting us make an austerity budget imperative."

Thomas E. Dewey, Governor of New York: "Germany and Japan are the grand prize of Russian attack—before taking the world."

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

REMARKS AT RANDOM

How's your car holding up lately after taking the pounding over all the potholes in our concrete highways?

Mine already has 17 new rattles in the past 10 days.

These days there's more comment on trucks and their use of the roads.

One week ago I stated my position in this matter: the big trucking companies are not paying their share of the road repair bill, compared to the small auto owners.

This week I came across two other news items which concern this problem of truck wear and its effect on road surfaces.

"because the risk of loss would be too great to make violating the law worthwhile."

THE SECOND ITEM appears in the Feb. 26, 1951, issue of Newsweek, which reports briefly on progress of the Highway Research Board's HRB test on a special stretch of US-301, just south of La Plata, Md.

Here, since last summer, eight trucks have been crashing back and forth over its own special section of highway.

The purpose is to obtain, if possible, an impartial answer to the question: "Do trucks, especially big ones, contribute more than their share of wear and tear to highways?"

Newsweek admits the HRB has not drawn any conclusion yet, but its measurements indicate:

THAT 44,800-POUND double rear-axle trucks cause 11 times as much cracking as 32,000-pound tandems;

THAT 22,400-pound single rear-axle trucks did about the same amount of damage as 18,000-pound loads.

These figures indicate, to me at least, much faster than the normal ratio.

Give an overloaded truck a chance to fracture a highway, and even normal or below-normal loads work on the original fracture, ultimately pounding the pavement to bits.

The state of Michigan ought to have laws which would take the profit out of overloading by fine which are somewhat less than confiscatory.

LEGITIMATE, well-supervised trucking agencies would have nothing to fear by such punitive action. Theoretically, they are not affected a single bit at the present time because they are law-abiding and observe all weight restrictions.

But the cheating or bordering case could stand to be caught on any six or 12 months would have to pay for his law-breaking at least.

The Butcher Boy With Flowers



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Cleared From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO

At a quiet village election Monday last, with even fewer voters than last year, candidates on the Citizens' ticket were swept into office with substantial margins.

Several of our citizens, who daily travel to Detroit or Pontiac to earn their daily bread, are becoming tired of having to stand for several miles while their non-working city cousins get the seats.

If there is anyone within a radius of six miles of Birmingham who wants a telephone he should contact George Mitchell, manager of the Michigan Phone Co. They can hear something to their advantage.

Peter Kerr and family will occupy the home of Mrs. Rhoda Skinner for one whole year. They have made the arrangements through the Eccentric real estate department.

The Wilson Railway Gate Co.'s factory on Maple Ave. has had its capacity largely increased of late.

20 YEARS AGO

Beginning April 1, the collection of rubbish will be made only once a month rather than once a week as in the past.

Taxpayers of Birmingham are invited to attend the public discussion on the 1931 budget in the commission rooms of the municipal building Mar. 30.

The \$490,000 of county funds on deposit in the Peoples State Bank in Pontiac when its doors closed this morning are covered by a bonding company and will not be lost to the county.

Charles J. Shain was named to head the Property Owners division of the Real Estate board at the organizational meeting Thursday night.

The first swim team of Baldwin high school came through the season to cop third place in the Class B meet Saturday.

5 YEARS AGO

John W. Gafliv will again head the garden groups in Birmingham. An appeal was made today by Mayor W. E. Moore for those who had gardens during the war years to continue them in order that more food may be sent to Europe.

Tuesday evening's meeting of the board of education may include a salary schedule for the coming year completed. The cost-of-living increment was set at 3.13 for each of the regular teachers.

The Abbot college band will appear in a concert here on April 1 at the Birmingham high school, under the direction of Dr. Conway Peters.

Clyde C. Bennett of Snyder,

Petitions Protest Any Annexation of Troy Township

Petitions signed by 101 resident owners of property just east of Birmingham, were presented to the Troy township board Wednesday evening, March 7, asking that the board take "necessary steps to prevent the annexation of any part of the township to any adjacent municipality."

Following the presentation of the petitions, the board voted to notify Birmingham and Clawson officials that it is opposed to annexation of any portion of the township.

In a letter to The Eccentric last month, Supervisor Charles R. Ryan referred to a statement in the Birmingham master land use plan, in which it stated the desirability of the city expanding to the east.

Many people have unwanted articles of various kinds—get what you want by asking for it in an Eccentric Classified Ad.

HOME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY



What's worth working for, is worth protecting! Anyone who has saved and struggled through the years to build a home owes it to himself and to his loved ones to protect it.

A lifetime of savings can go up in smoke quickly. Why take chances? Check today to see you are FULLY protected.

Hugh C. White Agency

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An Electric Range helps the Robert Youngs stay young

"Feed him well is one of woman's oldest wiles," says Mrs. Robert Young, "but it always works—and it's a lot easier with the help of a new Electric Range and all its modern improvements. Now, instead of your standing over a stove, the range does the watching for you. I can put my husband's favorite meal in the oven, set the automatic controls, and forget it."

You, too, can enjoy modern electric cooking. It saves money, time and trouble. Stop in and find out how!

ROBERT YOUNG Starring in "FATHER KNOWS BEST," based over NBC Thursday nights 8:30 to 9:00.

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