

Inflation

The Town Meeting on inflation, "Dollars and Sense" sponsored by the League of Women Voters, on Nov. 27 at 8 p.m., at the Community House, will find League members armed with the facts of the present-day inflation. In a series of neighborhood discussion groups, this week and next, the League will study the reasons, results and possible solutions of the problem. The public is invited to take part in these discussions.

Monday, Nov. 5 at 1 p.m. the groups will meet at 812 Pilgrim and 1285 Bates; Tuesday, Nov. 6, at 8 p.m. at 2512 Dorchester; Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 8 p.m. at 808 Madison and 1587 Penitence; and Friday, Nov. 9, at 1 p.m. at 6180 Wing Lake road. The public is invited to take part in these discussions. "We have secured an imposing panel of outstanding men from various fields to discuss the problem of inflation at the meeting on Nov. 27," said Mrs. Brooks Marshall, president of the local LWV. "The panel discussion will be the highlight of the evening, but the League will also attempt to bring the problem home to each individual member of the audience."

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL are Fred J. Beckman, farmer; Gordon W. Lampere from the Voluntary Credit Restraint committee; Rodney J. Lockwood, co-chairman of Production and Distribution of Building Materials; Andrew S. McParlane of the American Federation of Labor; John Slagan, economic analyst of the Ford Motor Company; and Dr. Morgan Thomas from the Department of Political Science and Government, University of Michigan.

"Birmingham may well be proud of its citizens," declared Mrs. Marshall. "In interviews with localites for their opinions on inflation, we have found not only widespread interest in the subject but thoughtful, intelligent response to the questions asked."

Here is what some more of your neighbors are saying:

Mrs. Marian Fitch, 28640 Ranchwood (Haidersree).

Question 1: "What do you think about inflation?"

"I think it is a very bad thing, and rapidly getting worse. Everything we buy costs more."

Question 2: "Who do you think has been hurt by inflation?"

"I think the lower salaried people with large families have been hurt more, but it is harmful to all."

Question 3: "Have you been affected by inflation?"

"Yes, very much so. It has been necessary for both my husband and me to work in order to continue building our home. Costs of all materials advanced so much since we started building that one salary wouldn't begin to take care of the expense."

Question 4: "What do you think should be done about inflation?"

"Everybody should see to it in arms and protest until something has been done about it."

Donald C. Egbert, 620 Frank (City Manager).

Q 1: "I think it is very important to all of us. There are certain indications of a tapering off of inflation, in that savings are higher, but on the other hand, recent price index reports tell us that prices are still rising slightly."

Q 2: "People on retired status, who anticipated living on their accrued savings have been hurt more than anyone else. Stockholders have been hurt too, and it has been more or less harmful to all."

Q 3: "I have suffered little, but certainly no hardship. Higher salary has offset, to a large extent, increases in living costs."

Q 4: "I have no solution. Imposing controls might help, but I am basically opposed to that. It isn't practical, as war needs always create an inflationary tendency. I do not think there is much value in individual opinion but an expression from a large group of people might be effective."

Rosa Campbell, Franklin Village (merchant).

Q 1: "I think the danger of a drastic inflation is past. There are plenty of consumer goods for which markets are drying up. The real danger of inflation stems from too much money to spend and less goods to buy. Of course, in case of war more government controls might be necessary."

Q 2: "I think everybody has been hurt, except perhaps owners of natural resources."

Q 3: "Yes, but not as drastically as merchants in some other areas. Income here is higher. People have enough money to buy essentials. I have 25 per cent more inventory but my sales are less as people are buying only what they actually need and that means a larger investment for me. I would prefer lower prices and a larger volume of sales."

Q 4: "I think the only solution is to reduce the cost of government. Some of us are working from three to eight months out of the year to support our government, which is trying to support the whole world. High taxes are passed on down to the consumer. Economy government could halt inflation quickly. Our national debt is so large it demands an artificial inflation to support it. I am not blaming labor, but high cost of government for inflation. A 20 per cent reduction in taxes would result in reduced demands from labor for higher wages and cost of consumer goods would go down."

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cost of progressively inflated Federal, State, or local budgets, with resulting higher taxes which add further to inflated prices.

"THERE ARE few greater evils than inflation which, once out of hand, can give to reforms a negative result. The withdrawal of all ways increasing numbers of people from productive pursuits to governmental services having nothing to do with our national defense, is a heavily contributing factor in inflation. Not only their productive capacity lost, but their maintenance adds billions to taxes.

"The inflation that arises from a war forced on us, we cannot avoid. We can modify its effects and prevent further inroads by applying the rules of common sense to the problem which con-

fronts us. Self-denial, thrift, industry, the avoidance of opportunistic policy in government, together with a patriotic sense of responsibility on the part of every citizen, including the bureaucrat, is the one formula with promise of effective control."

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