

Congress Best Can Pare Budget

The pressure blocs defending the highest peacetime budget in history tell us that only the executive department knows how many billions they should have.

This is a myth without truth. Scores of Senators and Congressmen have dealt with budgets longer than any one in the executive department.

This is especially true of the appropriations committees of the two Houses.

The chairman of the Senate committee, Carl Hayden, of Arizona, has been in Congress 46 years and in the Senate 31 years. The ranking minority member, Sixtus Bridges, of New Hampshire, has been in the Senate 21 years.

ON THE HOUSE COMMITTEE, the chairman, Clarence Cannon, of Missouri, has served 34 years, and the ranking mi-

nority member, John Tabor, of New York, has also served 34 years.

These four men alone have a total experience of 135 years. In addition to many other members of long service, these two committees have large staffs of researchers, whose year-round job is to study requests for money in every department and in great detail.

Then there is the Senate committee on finance, headed by Harry Byrd, with 24 years' experience.

These men know there is waste everywhere; know all about bureaucratic "empire building"; know that too many bureaucrats think money grows on trees.

If these men decide the budget can be cut without harm, we believe we can trust their judgment.

An Age of Terrific Indictments

Practically every speaker, including those on the air and behind the pulpit, and most of the writers for the press, are busy advertising the crisis at hand for humanity.

This is the day of great decisions, they assert, almost in unison and, upon the decisions we make now rests the hope of humanity for future years. The general idea is to excite the emotions of readers and listeners and thus persuade them to "unselfish action," which, it is suspected, they will not accept on the basis of intelligent argument.

WHILE THE PEOPLE of the world do face great difficulties at the present time,

Your Money Gets Cheaper, Cheaper

A motorist pulled up at a gas station, and asked: "Would you kindly make my horn blow louder, as my brakes don't work?"

Our country is touted as the richest in the world. The truth is, we're in a financial jam and had better tighten the brakes on the "give-away" program, rather than blow our horn.

We have about reached the limit on taxes and debt.

"So what," a reader writes, "we don't have to pay off the debt. Roosevelt said it's all in the family and payable when convenient—if ever."

UNCLE SAM OWES ABOUT 275 bil-

lion \$'s, the interest charge on which is about 7 billions annually. We, taxpayers, have to scrape up the dough. Moreover, it's a paradox, but true that we are paying the debt even when we are not paying it! That's because the unpaid debt has cheapened money and doubled the price of everything we buy. That is the "so what" to the person who says we don't have to pay it.

His idea is close to repudiation, as in Russia, which a short time ago repudiated all payments on her bonds for 20 years. Russia has discovered the easy way to save money. With a dirty rag she cleans the slate. Either we must begin to pay our debt, or we some day must look for a "dirty rag".

major parties, and within parties themselves. Too, they find it difficult to reconcile President Eisenhower's current attitudes with some of his 1952 and 1956 campaign speeches.

The unceasing war between good and evil continues, at great cost to all of society, everywhere. America boasts of its tremendous strides toward high standards of living on a "things" basis, as it has a right to do; yet more and more laws are required to cope with crime, more and more money is spent for prisons, law enforcement agencies, plus the countless costs and unhappiness to individuals due to a variety of harmful situations that arise among them. What a challenge before those who try to ride herd over the forces of evil!

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NATURE NOW BY LYDIA KING FRESHE
Special Writer for The Birmingham Ecceentric

A City Astride Two Continents

ISTANBUL—Istanbul, the largest city in Turkey, lies astride two continents. From the new Hilton hotel on the European side we can see across the Bosphorus to the Asiatic side. This is the Constantinople of my geography book; it was the capital of the old Ottoman empire until the declaration of the republic in 1923.

Now we have left behind the more familiar cultures and climes of Europe. The narrow winding streets are crisscrossed with dark wrapped figures; strange tongues speak with strange sad tones, merchants' "squat" habits their wares; vegetables, flat loaves of bread, fruit, clothing in hundreds of markets are silhouetted against a darkening sky while the bus from the airport chugs up the steep incline.

We awaken to a Moslem world. But the ancient city of more than a million inhabitants bears the mark of many cultures. Greek refugees who landed at ancient Chalcedon (now Kadikoy) in 658 B.C., bargaining Phoenicians, war-like Gauls, enterprising Romans and Ottoman Turks.

NOW is the time of the Kurban, a four-day religious holiday. The people cross the wharf in milling throngs to find standing room on the boats leaving the city's harbor and journeying to the Prince Islands in the Sea of Marmara.

Here along the water's edge come the shops of the city, a half-load of fish, a few bushels of peaches, cucumbers and asparagus in wooden crates, tall stacks of flat-irrigated rolls. Nothing is wrapped, everything is exposed to the dust and flies.

We jostle along with the crowd for way to Hagia Sophia, where we are to have an audience with the Patriarch of the Greek Church. The scene is bright and calm. We leave the crowds to ascend the rocky hill crowned by the monastery.

The driver cracks his whip, walking up the steep ascent while we ride in an ancient carriage. Grey olives and a few succulents are the only plants on the arid hillside but the ancient walls and adobe houses of the ancient city are at one with the heat and squalor. Men are doubled in half-carrying huge burdens on their backs. Many sleep on the sidewalk in the shade of a tree. A mother nurses her baby within the protective shadow of a mosque.

What greenness there is of grass and flowers is hidden in walled enclosures behind high walls. Here oleander and hibiscus are in bloom and through the carved marble grating of the Imperial Palace gate we catch a glimpse of exotic trees and flowers.

Before our mosque and museums great dusty sycamores and horse chestnuts ripen their seed and the Lombardy poplars are tall. We have followed these three across England and Europe into Asia.

THE EUROPEAN side of Istanbul is the old city of Byzantium surrounded by ancient walls repaired and enlarged by the Turks. Among its famous shrines is St. Sophia, originally constructed by Constantine in 317.

It was rebuilt by Justinian in the sixth century and later was converted into a monastery by the Turks. Since 1923 it has been a museum of Byzantine art. Its great central dome is 180 feet high, its massive green marble columns were brought from the temple of Diana and its magnificent mosaics are among the finest in the world.

THE ROMAN cisterns and aqueducts, the rich Archeological Museum with its relics of ancient civilizations, the Seraglio, former dwelling of the Ottoman Sultans

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Ecceentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
August 30, 1907
"Among the numerous acts passed by the last legislature which went into immediate effect was act 231 which governs the sale of fish caught on inland lakes in Oakland County. The act was passed expressly for this locality, and provides that no person or persons shall catch fish on the inland for disposition at sale. A penalty of a fine not exceeding \$100 and imprisonment in the county jail for not to exceed ninety days is provided. This law became effective last June."

"School books are sold on such a small margin of profit that each must accompany each sale. No credit therefore will be given."

"Carlisle Holmes, a Grand Lodge painter, aged 62, will start October 10 to walk to California. He will make the trip by way of the south and visit points of interest."

30 YEARS AGO
September 1, 1907
"At a meeting of the directors of the new Birmingham Savings Bank last Monday night, Lawrence W. Martindale, cashier, was elected to the board. Plans for the formal opening of the bank on Saturday, September 10, were also discussed at the meeting."

"Quarton road, from Woodward avenue west to Chesterfield, is closed today to traffic, and will remain so for five or six days, according to an announcement by Jack Wilson, township highway commissioner. A sanitary sewer is being laid on Quarton road this week, necessitating the closing."

"Reports from the village office and police department today say that no event other than the closing of stores is expected for Labor Day. No programs have been announced for Monday by any local organizations, it is found. With the post office and banks, a majority of stores plan to close. Drug stores will be open as usual and some other establishments will open until noon."

15 YEARS AGO
August 27, 1912
"Suit dresses" that look like two-piece suits will be popular this fall. Illustration is furthered by using red wool for the "jacket" part and black wool for the rest. Nailheads decorate buttons, button holes and collar. Hat is of raffish felt.

"There was quite a scramble last Friday afternoon at Dorchester and Edinburgh. Boys have built a tree but about 25 feet above the ground, and you should have seen them get out of it when it caught fire. The ladder was posted and the burning oil spread fast. There wasn't much left for the fire department to do but to keep the tree from burning further."

"There's nothing like Michigan weather. Last week we summered; this week—at least during the fore part—we wintered. Monday morning it was 38 degrees in Pontiac, and that's plenty cold for Aug. 24."

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill



with its enormous collection of priceless glass, silver, gold and porcelain—all these treasures should be seen and not written about.

But it is the people, always the people who have first claim on our hearts and the bazaars furnish the best opportunity to see them and to see ourselves. Gesticulating, questioning, posing, bargaining, pleading, all humanity surges around the baidies and bangles, the old ivory and silver, the silks and precious stones.

But there is more here than meets the casual observer. They are poor, our populace; their meek out "We are the East; you are West; our aggressiveness; their five-week terms, attracted students and teachers from every state in the nation. The university's recreation department sponsors mountain climbing, bus trips, hikes and steak fries throughout the season as a supplement to the academic life. One of the high points of the summer is the nationally famous Writers' Conference during late July and early August.

More than three million persons visited the New York Coliseum during its first year of operation.

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From The Eccentric's Point of View ...

Yugoslavia's dictator Tito again makes up to Russia's tyrant, Tito is a Communist, whose policy is to do away with (by death if necessary) all who oppose him and his dictatorship. Why, then, should American dollars be given to bolster his regime? Tito defends the very system that we decry in Russia and China. Were he sitting in the Kremlin he no doubt would be after the collective scalps of all free nations, including the U.S.A.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles is reported to have said: "Not for one minute do I think the purpose of the state department is to make friends. Its purpose is to look out for the interests of the United States. Whether we make friends, I do not care." Why, Foster, all these years we thought your department not only wanted to make friends...but that you thought you could buy their friendship with federal handouts!

To the average American, it is incredible that there should be so much current feuding between certain officials of both

major parties, and within parties themselves. Too, they find it difficult to reconcile President Eisenhower's current attitudes with some of his 1952 and 1956 campaign speeches.

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GEORGE R. AVERILL
Editor and Publisher

PAUL NEAL AVERILL
Business Manager

GEORGE WM. AVERILL
Managing Editor

GERALD E. JEHLE
Advertising Manager

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