

Inflation Addiction — An Epidemic

Imagine an epidemic of alcoholism or drug addiction sweeping the United States. Something similar is taking place. Inflation, an economic disease, is ruining the financial health of Americans and their nation.

Economists have diagnosed its causes and prescribed remedies. Communications media have funneled their warnings and recommendations to the public. But not enough people have realized the epidemic's seriousness to force concerted action to stamp it out.

The nature of the disease is partly responsible. Like alcoholism and drug addiction, inflation causes a deceptive feeling of well being. When one jolt wears off, its victims want another jolt, not a cure. Everything will be fine, they think, if they can just get another wage raise or more help from the government.

NO ONE OR TWO people can halt this epidemic. To be cured, inflation's victims (and let's face it—that's us) must realize what is happening and want to be cured. That will take a national will, a backbone enough to break the self-defeating habit of demanding something for nothing—whether it be more pay without

more production or more government spending without more taxes.

On this subject of inflation, here is some comment recently made by the Southern California Forum:

"Here's a note on inflation. It's the German story. When the Socialist-controlled Government took over Germany in 1919 it took four and a fifth German marks to equal the purchasing power of \$1.00 in American money. German inflation began to run wild in 1922-23.

"THEN IT TOOK 160 thousand marks to equal our dollar's purchasing power. By November, 1923, the mark was valued at 4 billion 200 million to the dollar.

"A newspaper in Berlin sold for 200 million marks per copy.

"There is an interesting story of a young German being left an inheritance of 660,000 marks in 1920. That was worth approximately 65 thousand dollars at the time. The provision was that he would receive it when he was age 21, and he became 21 in the middle of 1923.

"With his entire inheritance he was then able to buy only one meal.

"Think what will happen to pensions, insurance and savings with that kind of inflation."

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

In an effort to acquaint the public with its cost of supporting government-subsidized utilities such as TVA, privately-owned public utilities are prevented by both the Internal Revenue Service and U.S. Supreme Court from charging advertising as a cost of doing business. Thus, you see, the bureaucratic-controlled governmentally owned utilities are being protected at public expense from being "exposed"—and such outfits as TVA, Grand Coulee, etc., are able to sell electricity at less than cost. No wonder the TVA-benefitted states are able to offer the lure of cheap current to Michigan industries! Unless Congress passes new legislation enabling private utilities to defend themselves by being able to charge as expense their public relations campaigns to tell the public about this unfairness, the unfair competition will continue . . . and, you may rest assured, the future no doubt will bring added similar conditions against other segments of our economy, too. Thus are the shackles forged against the free enterprise system by the hunger of the insatiable monster parading as "a friend of the people."

diplomacy required the adjournment, so that Mr. K. wouldn't have to be allowed to speak to a joint session of Congress. No practical use in antagonizing the man who could, if he wanted to, loose a war of annihilation upon human beings.

Gov. Williams is reported as having told a Missouri audience that he supports the Landrum-Griffin labor bill, "because it would help eliminate the Hoffas in our society." 'Tad had he did not voice support of it before it did pass both Houses of Congress. It is like saying that "I favor the passage of a law making it illegal to commit burglary"—for that certainly would help to eliminate burglars from society. (And such a law would not, of course, injure honest folks, anymore than Landrum-Griffin will hurt honest labor people.

That "can-can" movie shown to Khrushchev, from some of the pictures of it that we saw in the newspapers, was not very nice to offer a man of K's political stature. Seriously, how did our State Dept. ever let that cheap stuff get on K's agenda? No doubt he'll never forget it . . . and we'll hear more about it when he gets back to Russia.

Once again American Motors' president George Romney says "NO" when asked if he will run for Governor. He is a man whose word is accepted as good as any bond.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Police tests for drunkenness hardly are given a thought by most motorists.

Unless, that is, the motorist himself is potted some night, is caught driving, and taken to the station house. Then come the usual protestations that "Why, Officer, I'm not plastered! I'm showher as a judge!"

Or his best friends hear about his situation the next day, and can't believe "Ol' Joe" EVER would do such a thing as get drunk.

A FEW DRINKS, YES, but not drunk! Otherwise Ol' Joe would NEVER have gotten behind the steering wheel!

Must have been that medicine the doctor ordered Joe to take for those palpitations.

In the good old days, many a motorist got out of a drunk driving charge because the police could not prove beyond reasonable doubt that the guy was drunk.

BUT TODAY THE SITUATION is different in some 30 states which have chem-

ical test laws. Michigan is one of these states.

These intoxication tests are not compulsory. But if taken, they prove whether a person's system contains sufficient alcohol to impair his driving ability.

And these intoxicimeters, as they're called, settle one and for all this business about one's being in a reaction from recently-taken medicine.

THE METERS WILL REGISTER only alcoholic blood content.

So if a driver REALLY is reacting to a drug, and gives signs he is under the influence of alcohol, the best thing he can do is request an intoxicimeter test to PROVE he's not touched the stuff.

The test will provide police with the information that will let them see the suspected driver is not under the influence of alcohol. That naturally will lead them to suspect an injury, or that the arrested driver actually is ill.

Then the driver can be rushed to a physician or hospital for care.

URGENT TASK

"THERE IS NOTHING WRONG WITH AMERICA THAT THE FAITH, LOVE OF FREEDOM, INTELLIGENCE AND ENERGY OF HER CITIZENS CAN NOT CURE." — DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Fungi Essential In Cycle of Life

The layman frequently thinks of fungus plants in terms of edible or poisonous mushrooms. However, the probing mind of the scientist considers the latter as a very small sector of a plant group whose economic importance is tremendous and whose presence is basic in the operation of the life cycle of both plants and animals.

Fungi take such uncountable and widely diverse forms that there is space here only to suggest that countless bacteria, molds, mildews, rusts, smuts, yeasts and blights are among the plants in this category. Many scientists also make them here for the little known virus group. Because the latter are the smallest of all known living things they defy the examination of a microscope. A NEW SCIENCE of medical mycology is now at work to intercept the parasitic fungi in their threat to both human and animal life. Plagues which have in the past wiped out whole civilizations, tuberculosis, cholera, pneumonia and such lesser diseases as lockjaw and impetigo; these are among the threats to life caused by the parasitic fungi which we generally call bacteria.

Now men have learned to control and to cultivate certain bacteria in the laboratory through giving birth to the science of antibiotics. Penicillin was the first of these fungal healers which altogether are revolutionizing modern medicine.

A THIRD GROUP of fungi are those which live in symbiotic relationships with other plants and animals. Many orchids are dependent upon certain bacteria in the soil; some species of algae and cyanobacteria live together co-operatively to form a lichen. Not so well known is the symbiotic arrangement demonstrated by certain insects such as the olive fly.

Here also belong those fungi which make a home within the intestines of animals and men, co-operating in the formation of products necessary for digestion and growth.

THEREFORE, we must conclude that the fabulous fungi both curse and bless the world. These plants demonstrate a balance alternating with reproduction, two eternal principles which are as essential to the organic world as they are to the functioning of the universe as a whole.

COUNTERBALANCING the work of these scavenger plants is another group not so welcome but equally necessary to nature's laboratory. These are the parasitic life-destroying fungi which affect

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
Oct. 8, 1909

"Some of our exchanges have made mention of the fact that friendly farmers along the lines of rural routes have contributed a bushel or so of corn, oats, or some other grain to their carrier. This is a suggestion that might well be acted upon by patrons of every rural route."

"The Epworth League gave a temperance entertainment at the church Wednesday evening."

30 YEARS AGO
Oct. 10, 1929

"First copies of the completed village plans, in booklet form, were to go into the mail this morning and every villager should have a copy within a week."

"A test of water from the Redding road well failed to pass a test required by the village and well digger, F. W. Ward, faces a claim from villagers for the return of \$6,145, the money paid for the sinking of the well."

"Some winter coats wear their fur on the inside, some on the outside but most winter coats wear fur."

15 YEARS AGO
Oct. 12, 1944

"Birmingham's October 6th salvage paper pickup has set a new

high monthly record according to the department of public works. The work about 36 tons of paper."

"While the first weeks of the water fowl season did not result in a very heavy kill of duck, local hunters say they saw, local pheasants to make them anticipate the opening of the game bird period."

STRICTLY FRESH

Saddest man in the world is the conductor of this column, who must be funny five times in a short space, 52 times a year.

Cheer up—in a few weeks, the leaves will cover the garden tools, and you won't have to pick them up until spring.

All the good-looking tomatoes aren't in the garden. You can find some in the grocery store, too.

You're growing old, friend, when you stop to consider how old you are.

The Army will really be streamlining when they invent something to pick up cigarette butts.

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Understanding Is Important

There was a day, not long past, when it was disturbing to most families to speak of life insurance. As a matter of fact, it was called death insurance. Yet today it is an accepted part of family planning. We respectfully suggest that the time has come for the family to assume the same objective attitude toward funeral pre-arrangement.

Today's funeral director provides facilities and services that are modern, dignified and in good taste. He provides the highest type of personal service, both before and at the time of family crisis.

You should know about these services. Know the peace and satisfaction that can come from simple pre-arrangement and planning.

For private consultations, call Liberty 9-8500, or stop in for a visit. Qualified funeral directors will personally conduct you on a tour without obligation, of course.

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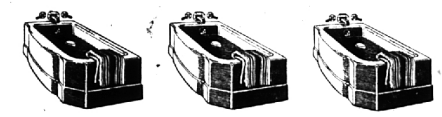
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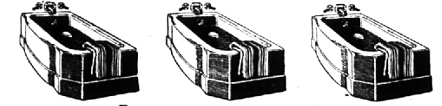
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