

The News-Review

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CONTROLS ON INFLATION

By CHARLES V. STANTON

Adjournment by Congress after a mild retouching of inflationary controls may leave many people genuinely puzzled.

Should Congress have taken drastic action to reduce the rising cost of living? Did it neglect public interest in its low-cost housing legislation?

Our own opinion is that Congress would have been foolish had it attempted long-range planning at this time. Cost-of-living legislation and housing relief must operate over a long period of time. Any program designed for sudden and drastic changes could easily upset our whole national economy. Adjustments must be made gradually and carefully. Congress may experience a decided change as a result of November elections. Control may pass from the Republican to the Democratic party, or, on the other hand, the Republican majority may be greatly increased. Leading political observers expect Dewey to beat Truman for the presidency, which, with a Republican majority in Congress, would permit the Republicans to take full control. We might have a Republican president and a Democratic Congress or vice versa. There are too many possibilities to permit long-range planning. Any program adopted now undoubtedly would undergo alteration next year. Consequently, Congress, we believe, exercised sound judgment by refusing to be stampeded into an action which would only add to confusion at the next regular session.

Price Control Methods Offer Contrasts

Two methods for controlling prices and inflation are in sharp contrast. One method is to place arbitrary controls on prices. This was the plan proposed by the President. But unless price control is accompanied by a wage freeze, the result is to encourage black market operations, reduce production, discourage investment capital and upset the balance between supply and demand.

The other method is to curtail demand. This is accomplished by limiting the amount of money available for speculative spending. It is the slow process designed to accomplish its result by gradual readjustment.

Inflation is caused through short supply and abnormal demand. When people have an abundance of cheap money, while production does not furnish enough commodities to keep prices low through competition, the law of supply and demand is thrown out of balance. By limiting the amount of money available for speculative purposes a moderate control is placed on demand. This is the policy contained in legislation enacted at the called session of Congress.

Congress voted to tighten installment buying, a material contributor to inflation. It increased the percentage of deposits banks must hold in reserve, which limits money available for loans. Further restrictions were placed on business credit and interest rates were raised, thus discouraging loans for business speculation.

The legislation enacted at the special session is not a fire extinguisher, but it is a damper to keep the fire from getting out of control.

Communist Investigations Embarrassing

While acting to slow progress of inflation, Congress started a backfire against the political implications of the President's recall. The investigation into the communist spy ring is embarrassing to the Democratic party. It is being revealed that the New Deal was very friendly with Soviet Russia, even to the point of sharing some of our deep military secrets. Of course, Russia at that time was a military ally whereas she is now a potential enemy. But it is somewhat startling to find out that the New Deal administration employed in prominent places men and women working actively in behalf of a foreign power bent on world domination by revolution. Republicans undoubtedly will make political hay from the refusal of the administration to permit Congress access to files on loyalty checks and FBI information.

The New Deal catered to the "Parlor Pink" and had many radical-minded theorists in its "Brain Trust." Now it is indicated that many government workers in high places were of deeper hue than "pink."

The public undoubtedly will hear a great deal more about activities of Communist spies and Communist sympathizers. In fact, groundwork obviously is being laid for one of the major campaign issues.

Lumber Workers In Klamath Area May Ask Pay Hike

KLAMATH FALLS, Aug. 10.—Lumber and sawmill workers in this area probably will open their contracts for negotiation of a wage increase this fall, Hugh Haddock, business agent for the Klamath Basin District Council, said yesterday.

No particular amount of increase has been specified. Representatives of the various locals in the district made the decision during a meeting here Sunday and the locals' membership is expected to ratify the move rapidly.

Haddock said most work contracts the AFL has in the pine industry here contain a 60-day clause allowing contracts to be re-opened 60 days after employees are given official notice.

Present minimum wage in the pine industry is \$1.40 an hour for box factory work and \$1.42 an hour in sawmills and woods

Doomed Slayer's Story May Save 2 Others From Chair

NEW YORK, Aug. 10.—(AP)—A man facing the electric chair has signed an affidavit that may clear two others who would have shared his fate.

In the death house at Sing Sing prison, Andrew Sheridan, 45, of Jersey City, N. J., is awaiting execution for the slaying of Anthony Hinz, a boss stevedore. Also slated to die for the January, 1947, killing are John Dunn, 36, and Daniel Gentile, 40.

Dunn and Gentile had contended throughout their trials that they were not present at the killing. Two appeals had been unsuccessful.

Yesterday Sheridan signed an

OUT OUR WAY

By J. R. Williams



BERLIN CRISIS PROTAGONISTS—Gen. Lucius D. Clay, (left) U. S. military governor in Germany, and Marshal Vassily Sokolovsky, (right) the Soviet military governor, are shown during a meeting of the Allied Control Council in Berlin. Clay's use of the U. S. Air Force to attempt to break the rigid blockade on supplies for the western allies' zone in Berlin imposed by Sokolovsky's forces is the latest move in the continuing crisis. (AP Wirephoto)

Scrap from the MENDING BASKET

"Learn Water Safety," a recent editorial in THE NEWS-REVIEW concluded with a thought which EJ used years ago with success in teaching our boys to enjoy the water and at the same time to be prepared for its dangers. I hope that editorial was widely read.

"Don't become so alarmed about water dangers that you frighten your children into life-long fear of the water," suggested the Editor. "Instead encourage them to enjoy water sports but to know and avoid danger. Their best protection is to learn to swim at the earliest possible age — to swim and to swim well . . ."

When the boys were about four their daddy decided it was time they really learned to swim. Out into the surf he would wade, the boys taking turns at riding him pickaback, chubby arms clutching him for dear life in a stranglehold around his neck, chubby legs reaching as far as possible under his arms.

"Hang on now!" he would warn. "Here come a good one!" The wave would pile up and up, making a high green wall curving inward, fringed on top with white. At the precise instant he would dive up through that

World's Biggest Fighting Ship To Cost \$125 Million

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10.—(AP)—The biggest fighting ship in the world—the Navy's \$125,000,000 giant carrier—will be the first capital ship built for the atomic age.

The contract for her construction by the Newport News (Va.) Shipbuilding and Drydock Co. was officially announced over the weekend.

No date has been set for the keel laying of the giant new carrier in Virginia and her first taste of salt water is expected

to be almost four years away. But she is being planned for a new era in sea warfare—she may be used one day to launch big planes loaded with atomic bombs, and she must be fast and well armed against enemy planes perhaps dropping atom bombs on her.

Her exact tonnage has not been set; estimates range from 63,000 to 80,000 tons.

No conventional "island" will interrupt an armored flight deck more than one-fifth of a mile long and some 130 feet wide. Navigation wings will be built on each side, housing radar antennas and fire control apparatus.

Few details of the carrier have been announced, but the emphasis on atomic planning in Navy circles suggests that she will be air conditioned against deadly radioactive air particles.

The Navy's 16-ship postwar construction program, which includes the unnamed flush-deck carrier, is almost entirely experimental. If advanced ideas built into the prototypes work out, the Navy will gradually rebuild its present fleet, putting in the proven new features.

Local Employees Of S. P. Join In Safety Campaign

Southern Pacific employees here are participating this week in a special accident prevention campaign along with the railroad's more than 60,000 other men and women in the six western states, according to J. E. Clark, local agent for the railroad.

With the objective of further decreasing the ratio of casualties among its employees, which ratio so far this year is nearly 30 per cent less than during the same 1947 period, the railroad designated this week as "Life-Saver Week" for an intensive system-wide accident prevention program, directed by Safety Superintendent A. A. Lowe.

Through the use of films, pictures, posters, talks and practical demonstrations, the company's supervising personnel is focusing attention of employees on the importance of safe practices and the use of all forms of safety devices in various phases of railroad work.

Personal Income Rate of Americans Sets New Record

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10.—(AP)—The personal income of Americans climbed to an annual rate of \$211,900,000,000 in June, a record high, the Commerce Department reported yesterday.

The sharp increase centered in factory pay checks, which fattened because of "third-round" wage increases in some of the major durable good industries. The gain resulted also from higher prices received by farmers for livestock, and "from the absence of labor-management disputes," the Department said.

The mid-year rate of income compares with \$207,200,000,000 in May and with a previous all-time peak of \$209,400,000,000 reached in January of this year. The income total for 1947 was \$195,200,000,000.

The June increase, coupled with the cut in income tax payments which began in May, boosted disposable income by more than four per cent over the first quarter of the year. Disposable income is the amount available to consumers for spending after taxes are paid.

In the Day's News

(Continued From Page One)

be all right with me if our boys should emerge from one of these binges looking a little grim.

THE news isn't all sweetness and light.

The official Soviet news agency hinted the other night in Berlin that allied planes could be FORCED DOWN for flying over "unauthorized" areas. It added: "The Americans have provisions for forcing down planes which depart from prescribed routes over the U. S. occupation zone."

That got a rise out of "an American Air Force official" (name not named) in Berlin. He conceded that "technically speaking" planes that violate flight regulations can be forced down.

Then he cracked: "However, once this starts things are going to be pretty rough around here."

TAKING it all in all, you see, this business that is going on in Berlin isn't exactly a late afternoon tea party, with everybody relaxed and happy.

REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVE McDOWELL (Pennsylvania) asserts that a "highly important man" in the U. S. government (back in 1943 "PUSHED" WARTIME SHIPMENTS OF ATOMIC BOMB MATERIAL TO RUSSIA.

Another U. S. official, he adds, OK'D THE SHIPMENTS.

He withheld both names, but said the two men will be asked for explanations soon in special PUBLIC hearings.

LET'S be realistic about this stuff.

McDowell is a Republican. The Republicans are out after Democratic scalps. The Democrats ran the government during the war, and so they must take the blame for what Democratic officials did then.

STILL —

This can't be laughed off: IF the Russians, who were at that time our buddies, did sneak into our kitchen and bribe or blackmail or blarney some of our servants into tipping them off on our prize atom bomb recipe to the extent of giving them some of the ingredients, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A WARNING TO OUR GOVERNMENT PEOPLE THAT THE RUSSIANS WEREN'T TO BE TRUSTED.

IF it all happened as McDowell says —

If two "highly important" officials of our government did ship the Russians uranium and samples of "heavy water" —

If they (as high officials) were so unbelievably dumb as not to have had their suspicions aroused by this Russian effort to steal our secrets —

Well, in that event, putting it as mildly as it can be put, they were just too dumb and trusting for any use. With this example of duplicity before them, they gave Russia Europe clear up to the Elbe (and threw in Manchuria) and thus let us in for the mess we're up to our ears in now.

McDOWELL, of course, will have to prove his statements; if he fails to do so, he's just another political scoundrel-monger. But, so far, it looks like he's on the trail of something hot.

Roseburg Dated On 'Radio Bus' Of Comdr. Scott

The Greyhound "Radio Bus," featuring Commander A. W. Scott and his "Romances of the Highway" on Aug. 15 will tour scenic Oregon in and around Roseburg and Grants Pass. The broadcast over Mutual Broadcasting System and KRNR will be featured Sunday at 10:15 to 10:30 a. m.

Commander Scott will also tell the romantic story of Jedediah Smith's adventurous journey through this area 120 years ago. The noted radio travelogue commentator and writer of historical work recently visited Roseburg and was taken on a trip up the North Umpqua. He was supplied with considerable information on which to base his broadcast and also for a forthcoming book, "Romance of the Highways in Oregon."

Additional publicity for many other western cities and areas will be provided by the "Old Timer" with his calendar of events, a regular feature. Events mentioned and described will include: in Oregon—the Tillamook County Fair, Aug. 18 through 21, and the Shakespearean Festival at Ashland, now in full swing and continuing through Aug. 28.

Editorial Comment

From The Oregon Press

FEDERAL RAP

Corvallis Gazette-Times
 It is a good sign when such an influential magazine with so wide a circulation as the Saturday Evening Post sees fit to call the public attention to the crazy spending spree that has been going on for the past 16 years by the federal government. Says the Post:

"It has become commonplace with post-Roosevelt politicians that every American has a 'right' to good housing, or a 'right' to inexpensive medical care or a 'right' to standards of living represented by a salary of \$5,000 a year, or a 'right' to the good things of life at prices he can afford to pay.

"This idea of a 'right' to material things would have mystified people even as long as 30 years ago. Our own American pioneers sacrificed heroically for the right not to have King's men quartered in their houses or for the right to be represented in the assessment of taxes laid upon them: In Jamestown Plantation, Captain John Smith is commonly supposed to have limited the right to eat to those who are willing to work. It is not recalled that this dictum caused any special surprise or that Smith was denounced as a 'reactionary.'

"Even more bewildering to a pioneer would have been the currently prevailing notion on how to realize his 'rights.' To assure the right of every American family to decent food, we proceed to close down the packing industry by a strike. The right to a

decent home is implemented thru a mass of featherbedding by labor and chasing by certain contractors and suppliers which make it all but hopeless for anybody to build a house. But when we talk about correcting this, we do nothing to eliminate standards on building jobs or the boycotts of material manufacturers who have not paid tribute to the right people. Instead, we expect to remedy the trouble by political action. That is, by spending billions of tax dollars to freeze into the system the very rackets which have been causing the trouble.

"People 300 years ago would have been mystified by a generation which expects to enforce the 'right' to a high standard of living by closing down the nation's coal mines, railroads, packing houses and automobile plants. Captain John Smith's bustling workers and the settlers

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