

Brisk Christmas Trade Sets Pace For Higher Trend In Business, Industry

By G. A. PHILLIPS
NEW YORK.—(AP)—A brisk Christmas trade set the pace for a steady to higher trend in business and industry last week.

A glance at the national economic scene one week before Christmas disclosed a well-rounded picture with strong tides running in industrial production, employment, building and retail trade. The stock market hit an 18-month high in a sustained exhibition of bullish strength unmatched in any prior week this year.

At the same time there were enough orders on the books or in sight to give most businessmen a feeling of cautious satisfaction as they prepared to tally the year's final results.

The cautious attitude crept into the picture because of the uncertainty that exists as to the probably length of the present business upturn. Many experts will tell you that it is simply too good to last, and with a vivid recollection of what happened last spring and summer when there was a painful dip in business, a wary attitude was evident in many front offices.

The \$4 a ton hike in steel prices late last week probably will deepen this cautious mood. No matter what the merits, in the case may be, the move is certain to make businessmen wonder whether it will invite strong anti-business programs by government or promote a drive for higher wages, or both. Higher wages might upset the present delicate balance between inflation and deflation in favor of inflation in the form of higher prices for goods and services.

As the year draws to a close the price structure seemed to be firming in many areas. New purchasing power hit market places in the form of heavy government expenditures for many sided operations at home and the Marshall plan program abroad. The Bureau of Labor Statistics late Friday announced wholesale prices across the country advanced one-tenth of one per cent in the week ended Dec. 13. Trends have remained higher since that time.

Shortly now, the first funds from the \$2,800,000,000 GI insurance pool will be distributed and higher pay rates for a vast army of government pensioners and workers will add to the money



MAVIS JANE HAARSAGAR, four years old, takes time out in her father's arms to wonder if—just perhaps—she will get a nice doll for her very own, maybe like the one her Daddy showed her here. She's quite a little doll herself, I'll say.

Mavis is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Haarsagar of Mohall, North Dakota. They are visiting here at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lorenzen at 340 East Second Avenue North. (By Paul Jenkins).

flow. Minimum wage rates for 1,500,000 workers will be raised from 40 to 75 cents an hour. This will add another \$1,000,000,000 a year to national purchasing power.

There were numerous other inflationary factors in the picture. Added up and placed along side the government farm support program they appeared destined to keep a strong prop under prices at a time when ordinary competitive pressures were beginning to be recognized at the grocery and dry goods store, automobile show room and lumber yard.

The persistently strong trend in common stocks on the New York stock exchange, especially in issues that could respond easily to shifting price sands, was rated by many observers as convincing proof that the national economy was being artificially pepped up with regular doses of inflationary medicine.

The quoted value of listed stocks rose by \$1,500,000,000 this week. Volume was the largest for any week thus far in 1949. More issues were traded in one day than ever before. The average price level advanced to the highest point since mid-1948.

It must be remembered that 1948 was a banner record year for retailers so any drop from that period has to be weighed with that fact in mind.

This week's business chart was studded with asterisks that carried you back to the early part of this year for comparable figures. Electric power production was the highest in history, reflecting a full work load for industry and shorter days that required more current for home lighting.

Money in circulation rose to \$27,701,000,000 highest since last January. This was caused by the

Dillard

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Laurance spent several days last week over at Lakeside fishing.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynne Linton and children, Gary and Kathleen of Grande Ronde, Oregon, were recent visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Golgert, enroute to Crescent City, Calif. Mrs. Linton is an old school chum of Mrs. Golgert. The Lintons are widely known as extensive growers and breeders of a fine line of chinchillas.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Golgert and sons, Donald and Neal, were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oren Standley, of Camas Valley, for turkey dinner on Sunday. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Bayle Barker.

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Rutchman have recently moved from up on Willis Creek to Winston.

many fine things that a lot of people do at this time of year such as buying Christmas presents, paying off old debts, declaring bonuses to workers and just carrying a roll of folding money around in their pockets for the fun of it.

Ingrid Bergman Having Difficulty Getting Divorce

NEW YORK.—(AP)—The New York Times in a Rome dispatch says film star Ingrid Bergman had told its correspondent "some difficulties" had prevented her getting a divorce from Dr. Peter Lindstrom.

Times Correspondent Camille M. Cianfarra wrote that Miss Bergman told him she planned to marry Italian film director Roberto Rossellini as soon as she is free, having decided "to give up my artist's career because I now want to live my own life just as any other woman."

Cianfarra said he interviewed Miss Bergman and Rossellini in her apartment in Rome. The couple's romance began last spring when Rossellini directed the Swedish actress in the film "Stromboli," made on a bleak, volcanic island off Italy's west coast.

According to the Times dispatch, Rossellini said Miss Bergman "explained things quite clearly" to Dr. Lindstrom when they met in Messina last May, at a time when the Bergman-Rossellini romance was making headlines around the world.

"I want to make it clear," the Times account of Rossellini's remarks continued, "that at that time the relationship between Ingrid and myself was absolutely correct. It is not our fault, is it, if we cannot get married because Ingrid has been unable so far to obtain a divorce?"



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