

Battle Against Fiscal Suicide Begins

One of the most encouraging developments evidenced in Washington recently is an apparent determination to effect some long-overdue and fairly substantial economies in government.

We have heard lip service to economy from Congress and the different administrations for as long as most of us can remember, only to see skyrocketing of government expenditures year after year after year with little or no regard to a balanced budget or other sound economic practices.

Now, it appears, President Johnson means business when he espouses economy and elimination of waste and he has a strong ally in Secretary of Defense McNamara.

The announced closure of 33 military bases has — as expected — brought about a loud weeping and wailing from congressmen from the states directly affected by the order and there is no doubt that the closing of the bases will cause dire problems in some states.

The loss of 8,500 civilian jobs means there are at least 8,500 Americans who feel that economy — unlike charity — should not begin at home. It would be impossible to convince a man who has just lost his job that

a wave of federal economy is a good thing.

The popular philosophy in this country for years has been "Let's have less government spending and lower taxes — as long as the things which benefit us aren't curtailed." In other words, the start should be made somewhere else.

There are many in this country, and apparently Congress is beginning to become aware of it, who believe that untold millions could be saved each year from our foreign aid programs. Here is an area where some substantial economies can be put into effect — and they will be if recent House cuts in appropriations are upheld by the Senate.

The state of Oregon is now demonstrating that governments can operate on sharply reduced budgets — maybe not in the way to which we have become accustomed — but effectively. It means belt-tightening, to be sure, and many of the curtailed services will eventually be restored. But we in Oregon know it can be done.

Let's hope the people of the whole country also have the backbone to adjust to the situation, give support to those seeking federal economies and help check the headlong race to national fiscal suicide.

Hour of Decision



Daily Bible Reading

By Roseburg

Ministerial Association

Scripture: James 1:19-21

"Quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger" — James gives a challenge many can work on.

"Many men have too much will power. It is 'won't' power they lack," according to John A. Sheed. A man who reads the first three Gospels as if he had never read them before was asked what he found new in them. He was impressed that Jesus "never met an unimportant person." He was "quick to hear."

And "slow to speak." Fast-growing trees provide more wood, but it is softer. It is the

slow-growing trees that give the hard woods.

The fact is that there is much each of us can do about our lives. It is easy to be cynical of others, to strive for selfish ends, to continually pass on questionable or degrading jokes, to compromise principle, to become "hard" or "tough." Because it is easy, these quickly develop into what James describes as the "rank growth of wickedness" which chokes off our sensitivity to the good things of life.

"Knowledge is infinitely superior to happiness and moral goodness is infinitely superior to knowledge," according to W. D. Ross. If we really believe that, we work to prepare the ground, so that we may "receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls." It is the best preparation for Christmas that we can make.

John E. Adams, Minister First Presbyterian Church, Roseburg.

The Almanac

By United Press International Today is Wednesday, Dec. 18, the 352nd day of 1963 with 13 to follow.

The moon is approaching its first quarter.

The evening stars are Jupiter, Saturn and Venus.

On this day in history:

In 1787, New Jersey ratified the proposed Constitution of the United States.

In 1865, slavery was abolished in the United States by adoption of the 13th Amendment.

In 1936, the first giant panda was imported to the United States from China.

In 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt appointed a committee to investigate the military disaster at Pearl Harbor.

A thought for the day — In the New Testament it is written according to Mark: "...The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath."

Now You Know By United Press International

The median number of years of education per person in the United States increased between 1950 and 1960 from 9.3 to 10.6, according to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

In The Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

From Moscow: The Soviet parliament received for formal approval today an unprecedented \$212.3 BILLION peacetime budget for the next two years that emphasized bread and butter instead of guns.

Premier Khrushchev looked on approvingly as the Grand Minister Vasily Garbuzov read out the figures, lopping off \$660 million from defense spending for the next year.

At the same time, \$27.1 billion was allocated to the nation's failing agriculture over the next two years and the green light was given to a chemistry industry build-up which will supply the farms with fertilizer and also satisfy GROWING DEMANDS FOR MORE CONSUMER GOODS.

This is the interesting part of the story:

President Khrushchev and his advisers appear to be coming to the conclusion that it just might be SAFER FOR THEM to spend less for guns (and atom bombs) with which to conquer the world for communism and more for butter (and also for steaks and better houses and better clothing and more automobiles) and the other things that go to make up the GOOD LIFE that the people of the Western world seem to be having in much greater abundance than the people of the U.S.S.R.

That, if true, could be highly significant.

Some interesting figures: The present estimated population of the United States is about 188,000,000.

The present estimated population of the U.S.S.R. is about 220,000,000.

The anticipated federal budget of the U.S. for the next fiscal year is in the neighborhood of \$100 billion.

The anticipated budget of the U.S.S.R. for the next year, according to this morning's dispatches from Moscow, will be about \$106 billion.

Which is to say: The per capita federal tax in the U.S. for the fiscal year will be about \$330.

The per capita tax in the U.S.S.R. for the next fiscal year will be about \$482.

These figures, of course, don't mean much.

The value of an American dollar depends entirely on how much of the necessities and the good things of life a dollar will buy.

The value of a Russian ruble (which in foreign exchange is worth about \$1.11) depends entirely on how much of the good things of life a ruble will buy. In this country, we're quite certain that an American dollar will buy MORE of the good things of life than a Russian ruble will buy.

Still, the figures are interesting.

And — It's VERY interesting to learn that Mr. Khrushchev is aware that there are GROWING DEMANDS FOR MORE CONSUMER GOODS among the Russian people and that it might be well to so handle the Russian economy that it will be POSSIBLE for the common, ordinary Russian people to get more consumer goods that make life more pleasant. That could be highly significant.

Riddle Sweet Tooth Gets Camp Fire Aid

All but 26 of the 480 boxes of Camp Fire Girls chocolate mints delivered to Riddle Camp Fire and Blue Bird groups have been sold to date, according to Erma Best, correspondent. Six groups participated in the sale with Mrs. Dale Page's group leading in sales volume with 153 boxes sold and Mrs. Richard Rasmussen's group second with 113 boxes.

Individual high salesmen, all of Mrs. Page's group, were Gail Strobridge, 31 boxes; Susan Page, 25; Nancy Dunn, 15; and Nancy Clifton and Carol Guritz, both 12.

Hemorrhoids Cured Painlessly By Non-Surgical Method

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News Analysis



Venezuelan War Was 'Silly' One

By ROBERT C. RUARK

At the time this is written I do not know who is on first base in Venezuela, but it looks as if Romulo Betancourt's boy is firmly in the line-up. It might have been Alejandro Carrasquel the old Washington Senators' pitcher, or even my friend Cesar Giron, the bull-fighter. Things get a touch scrambled in Venezuela during periods of high temper, elections, and attempted overthrows. I know. Together with 12 reporters, one press agent, the press agent's wife and an airline hostess named Bonnie, I once won a Venezuelan revolution.

This is to say we defeated both sides, Betancourt's and Maldonado's. We did it with whiskey, mainly, and song, and possibly with a little womanhood to go with the wine. One of the women was named Concepcion Gonzales, aged 18, daughter of a barber, who was shot in the foot.

I know all this because I went back to the files of 1946, and read the copy. The offices of all the services back home were screaming for copy, so we invented some copy. I personally invented Concepcion, a fatter whom the first international legion post of the S.O.V.s (Sons of the Venezuelan) was named. This was the silliest war I ever looked at. A guy named

Bernie Relin piled a flock of us into a celebratory plane which was supposed to kick off the service of the Linea Aeropostal Venezolana and winged us down to Caracas. Bernie was press-agenting the job, and he gave a stranger a lift. The stranger stole the account from Bernie.

The whole revolution ran that way. Every time the outs planned a coup, all of us happy fellows showed up, exuberant to say the least (the bar tab was \$15,000 for a week, but they were on the gold standard and their bolivares don't assay very many to the dollar) and we wrecked the revolution.

Betancourt Knew The first coup was intended to take place at the air academy, and President Betancourt was supposed to be on hand to be shot down in flames. (Betancourt later said that he knew that kind of a nut. He knew there was a coup hatching.)

Anyhow, the assassins were all arrayed but, in the absence of Betancourt, who should turn up but United Press, Associated Press, Scripps-Howard, United Features, NEA Service, Hearst, I.N.S., Time, Newsweek and John O'Donnell of the Patterson papers. No revolution in his right mind is going to shoot that much public relations, so everybody went home and had a siesta.

Everyone, that is, except Maj. Carlos Maldonado, who when last seen had stolen our aircraft and was headed for Colombia. The major knew when he was outgunned, but at the moment it left us stranded. We didn't even get a diploma.

Bombs Dropped

We progressed to Maracay, where two 25-pound bombs got dropped, and Concepcion Gonzales was born. She was born while I was waiting with the late James Thrasher of NEA and Collier's to get room service on the phone to bring him something for his hangover. We had to file something apart from the fact that the perfidious revolutionaries had got drunk with a redheaded Hearst photographer the night before, and were learning the words to "Sweet Adeline" when they should have been bombing Caracas and setting fire to Lake Maracaibo.

I might say the photographer, named Broderick — Hugh, as I recall — came home in a tank as chief of the ground forces.

They sent a plane finally from the American Embassy, but there wasn't room enough for all of us. We drew some lots for who would get killed in the overland journey, over the 20-some roadblocks in the mountain passes, and I wound up in the car with the American military attaché, Col. Robert Matthews, his wife Elizabeth, Mrs. Irene Relin, bride of the public relations gentlemen, Harry Murkland of Newsweek and Senor Jorge Dixon of I.N.S.

Journey Heroic

It was an heroic journey, interrupted many times for such things as lunch and itchy-fingered, barefoot rurales. I never knew Simon Bolivar slept in so many flea-bit inns. He made Gen. Washington look like a stay-at-home.

When we got back to Caracas the war was over. We tried manfully to keep it going for another week — the room service was fine in the hotel — but eventually the more responsible officers got tired of bulletins about Concepcion Gonzales, our only casualty, apart from the hangovers.

But if the Betancourt boys had needed help against the FAELN, they should have called some of us old S.O.V.s. You wouldn't see Todd Wright or Dixon or George O'Rourke or Bill Flavey getting themselves shot by the terrorists.

I see by the papers that the terrorists messed up the UPI offices. I can only hazard that they were trying to get even for what we did to the country so many, many years ago. (Copyright, 1963 by United Press, Inc.)

Accident Victim Dies

CALDWELL, Idaho (UPI) — Frank B. Lord, 75, Winnemucca, Nev., died in a Caldwell hospital Monday from injuries suffered in an automobile accident near Jordan Valley, Ore. Lord was admitted to the hospital here Dec. 6.

In Days Gone By

Taken from the files of the News-Review

40 YEARS AGO Dec. 18, 1923

The county is now boarding eight prisoners, who are confined to the county jail for long terms, the most of those now serving time being violators of the prohibition laws. The expense of feeding these prisoners amounts to about 60 cents each day, so that the county is being put to considerable expense. The prisoners now enjoying the enforced hospitality of the county are a very orderly lot and are causing the officers little trouble.

The fund for the support of the Douglas County Concert Band is growing rapidly and indications are that the band will receive sufficient money to provide for its activities for at least another year.

25 YEARS AGO Dec. 18, 1938

The contract for construction of the new building to be erected by St. George's Episcopal Church was let last night to C. A. Chamberlin, Roseburg contractor. Work on the new building, which will replace the 75-year-old structure recently razed, will start soon after the first of the year. The construction is expected to cost approximately \$15,000.

10 YEARS AGO Dec. 18, 1953

Turkey meat reached a new high in dollar value at the annual Northwestern Turkey Show banquet at the Douglas County Fairgrounds Thursday night. Ben Martin of Oakland paid \$2 a pound for Dave Cooper's grand champion dressed turkey in an auction at the banquet session. His bill for the 39-pound tom came to \$78. Dave Cooper is from Parkdale.

BOWLING DISTRACTIONS

PAIGINTON, England (UPI) — The town council banned bikinis on Paignton's bowling green recently after Councillor George Cornelius argued, "It is distracting to bowlers when a stout female wears shorts or bikinis which amplify outstanding features of the body."

THE LIGHTER SIDE:



Accoustics Too Good In Senate

By DICK WEST

United Press International WASHINGTON (UPI) — My general science teacher in high school used to tell his classes that sound does not exist unless it is heard.

If a mighty tree toppled over in the forest, and nobody was within earshot, then its fall would be noiseless, according to this pedagogy.

Assuming this is true, I suppose the principle also applies to the U.S. Senate. If a senator makes a speech, and nobody hears it, then he actually does not say anything.

It might be argued, of course that he doesn't say anything even if someone does hear it. But I'm trying to keep this scientific.

Senators Adhere to Rule

At any rate, senators appear to have learned their physics lessons well. To a man, they show a strong preference for speaking in places where they can be heard. In that regard, they are fortunate.

Any time a senator feels like uttering a few thousand well-chosen words, he can drop by the Senate chamber and find a built-in captive audience.

As long as a senator is speaking, it is considered bad parliamentary form for the presiding officer to turn out the lights and go home.

Moreover, there are always at least two newspapermen present. The two wire services make it a point to have reporters in the chamber at all times in case something unexpected happens — like a senator saying something newsworthy.

This brings us to a senator who recently complained that one of his speeches on the foreign aid bill failed to produce adequate reverberation.

Claims Views Suppressed

He told the Senate he was unable to find any mention of his remarks in the next day's newspapers. He concluded, therefore, that he was a victim of "journalistic concealment policies."

I am not familiar with all the circumstances, but it may be that the problem was not so much a matter of concealment as of acoustics.

As the adage goes, the acoustics in the Senate chamber are terrible; you can hear every word they say.

I made a random check in the Congressional Record and found that during one 12-day period this senator was credited with at least 93 entries on the subject of foreign aid.

To update another adage: I may or may not agree with what you say, but I get pretty tired of hearing you say it.