

Inflation Trend Curbs Suggested By Economists

Seattle, Nov. 21 (AP)—The rapid trend toward inflation can be stopped only by the immediate resumption of rent control and food rationing and increased income taxes, a group of Washington economists professors advised Congress Thursday.

Seventeen faculty members of the university's college of economics and business mailed a suggested program of legislative action to Sen. Robert A. Taft, chairman of the joint congressional committee on the economic report. They drew up the program at the request of the western price subcommittee which recently held hearings in Seattle and other coast cities.

Inflation Started

Offered as a temporary stop-gap to preserve free enterprise, the professors' program of stiff controls was based on the premise that inflation has already proceeded so far that it cannot be stopped by merely removing buying power without doing injustice to certain groups. In fact, they said, inflation already has worked "serious inequities" on certain groups.

The legislative program was recommended as a whole, "no single part of which may stand alone." It provides for:

1. Creation of a non-partisan agency empowered to control prices and rents, ration scarce foods, stabilize wages on a national pattern, and control speculation on all organized exchanges.

Monetary Plan Included

2. Adoption of monetary laws requiring all financial institutions to hold specified portions of their assets in government securities, extending the federal reserve board's power to raise legal reserve requirements for member banks, and returning to the federal reserve board broad powers to regulate consumer credit.

3. No reduction in personal or corporate income tax rates at this time, with increased rates on personal income in the 4,000 to \$25, brackets.

4. Reinstitution of the excess profits tax with steeply progressive rates, reduction of government spending, and use of government surpluses to retire the federal debt.

5. Increase the minimum wage level under the fair labor standards act.

6. Strengthen export-import controls to insure that only essential materials are exported, and reduction of tariffs on all scarce items that could be imported in greater quantities without interfering with foreign aid programs.

Called Imperative

"We deem it imperative," the professors said, "that broad, direct controls be adopted at once in conjunction with monetary, fiscal and foreign trade policies."

"It is not recommended as an alternative to free enterprise and price competition," they said, explaining that "when the inflationary pressure has subsided, the direct controls should be removed to allow free price competition to operate."

But in order to be fully effective now, these measures can and must supplement each other, they emphasized. The group, headed by Prof. Theodore J. Barnow, mailed copies of the program to the Washington state congressional delegation.

FUNNY BUSINESS

by Hershberger



"And when the telephone rings you simply wind the windlass!"

Railroads Seeking NLB Intervention

Chicago, Nov. 21 (AP)—Spokesmen for the nation's railroads said Thursday they had asked the national mediation board to intervene in their dispute with three operating employees' unions.

The railroads announced that they had withdrawn offer to increase wages 15% cents an hour and to grant "reasonable concessions" on rules changes demanded by the unions.

The spokesmen said the offer made to the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers and the switchmen's union was similar to one accepted last week by two other operating unions.

Contract Signed

The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and the Order of Railroad Conductors last week signed the first contract ever reached between the carriers and the railroad without the help of the mediation board.

Negotiations between the railroads and the operating unions began here on Oct. 7. The unions had demanded a 30 per cent wage boost and 44 changes in working rules. A similar demand for rule changes precipitated a two-day rail strike in May, 1946.

The offer of a 15-cent an hour wage increase was the same as that awarded 1,000,000 non-operating railroad employees by an arbitration board early in September and the same as that accepted by the conductors and trainmen last week.

Navy Recruiting Station Changed

The navy has revised its physical requirements for enlistment, according to word received by the local navy recruiting station, and will permit enlistment of men with certain physical defects for which they would have previously been rejected.

The navy will take men with partial plates or full dentures and also men with 20/200 vision that is corrected to 20/20 with glasses.

County GI Loans Go Over Million

Veterans of Deschutes county have obtained 276 G. I. loans since March, 1946, the veterans administration's regional office has informed Donald A. Larson, contact representative for this area.

These loans, counted up to the end of October, have amounted to \$1,352,122.11, including guaranties by the V. A. totaling \$644,465.46. In the three basic categories, this county's definitely committed loans include: On homes, 217 totaling \$1,128,684.27; on farms, 38 amounting to \$153,843.00, and on businesses, \$69,594.84.

Multnomah county, with its large population and big home loan business, led the state with 2,764 loans. Next 10 in order were: Marion, 673; Klamath, 626; Washington, 439; Lane, 408; Clackamas, 355; Deschutes, 276; Umatilla, 274; Linn, 242; Josephine, 236; Douglas, 211.

Many Loans Made

Some 1,174 loans with guaranty commitments were made between the start of the program in February, 1945, and March, 1946, but these have not yet been codified for the new file sorting apparatus in regional office and do not appear in the above figures. The latter date marked

the start of loan operations under the drastically amended present federal act.

The 10,300 G. I. loan approvals counted thus far for Oregon also include several hundred now being processed or in stages of building construction, and others delayed or never closed for various reasons, the VA said.

Discharge Papers Await Ex-Guards

The U. S. coast guard has about 12,000 honorable discharge papers available to former coast guard personnel who earlier received the less desirable ordinary discharges because of physical disability, or who were discharged under honorable conditions to accept commissions or to become cadets, the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs was informed today.

Men in these cases received the less desirable discharges up until January 10, 1946, when coast guard regulations were changed to permit issuances of standard honorable discharges, retroactive to December 7, 1941. Those so affected need only make application to the Commandant, Coast Guard, Washington 25, D. C.

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Union Official Barred At Border

Vancouver, B. C., Nov. 21 (AP)—The international executive board meeting of the International Woodworkers of America (CIO) met here today after being transferred from Portland, Ore.

The meeting was originally scheduled for the Oregon City for November 18, but was transferred when Mark Mosher, second vice president, was barred from entry into the United States. Mosher, British Columbia representative to the meeting was turned back at the Seattle airport by U. S. immigration authorities.

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HOSPITAL NAME CHANGED

Salem, Nov. 21 (AP)—The name of Salem's Deaconess hospital, operated by the Mennonite church, has been changed to Salem Memorial hospital, its board of directors said today. It is one of two hospitals here.

The density and pressure of the atmosphere some 60 miles above the earth are what physicists call a vacuum.

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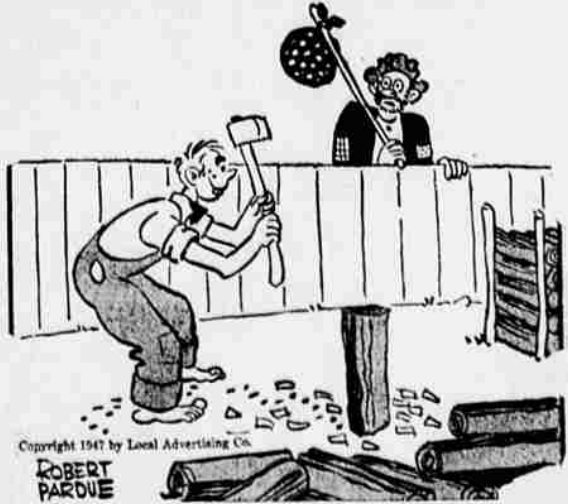
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