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Causes of Inflation

At the recent session of the National Industrial Conference Board in San Francisco, Joseph Garbarino, associate professor of business administration at the University of California, asserted that the prevailing wage policy had contributed a definite inflation potential in the past two years.

Over the past three years, he pointed out, the annual increase in productivity of manufacturing had been between 3 per cent and 3 1/2 per cent. At the same time the wage costs (including wages and fringe benefits) have risen at annual rates of almost 5 per cent—in other words, wage costs in production industries have been increasing by some one-fourth to one-third more than productivity.

Up to date, Mr. Garbarino said, the economy has adjusted itself to this state of affairs by (1) a moderate rise in price level and (2) shifts in the shares of national income in favor of wage and salary earners. Should this tendency of wages to outrun productivity continue, he predicted future adjustments would tend increasingly to take the form of price increases.

Wage hikes are not justified unless production is increased, and the point has been reached where management and labor need to cooperate with government in protecting the value of the dollar by checking inflation, Garbarino said.

President Eisenhower in his annual economic report to Congress said on this subject:

"Economic developments in recent years show the basic role that monetary and fiscal restraints must play if the excesses that often accompany prosperity are to be avoided. At the same time, this experience suggests that fiscal and monetary policies must be supported by appropriate private policies to assure both a high level of economic activity and a stable dollar."

These annual wage increases in industry are followed by wage increases and cost hikes all along the line and force inflationary increases in living costs. But labor leaders seem intent by their unreasonable demands, like Reuther's demand for a four-day week for the automobile industry at present top wages will help insure a bust "that will curl your hair."—G.P.

Fair Sex Wins Battle

From Springfield, capital of Illinois, comes word of another victory for the ladies in the battle of the sexes by the ignominious default of the sterner sex in a hopeless effort to return to the masculine domination of the primitive stone age era.

In those far away days women were the toilers, the burden bearers, the water carriers, the gardeners as well as cooks, basket makers, clothes weavers, pottery makers and utility slaves of their lazy lords and masters, who hunted game and head-hunted neighbors after boogey-woogey tribal war dances, but whose steady occupation was loafing.

Alarmed by the progress of the fair sex since their persistence won political as well as social equality, resentful spouses three years ago incorporated the "Hen-pecked Husbands' Association, Inc." to "Set an example to all married males that will allow husbands to rededicate themselves to the principles of liberty and free speech."

A basic aim of the group, as outlined in the articles of incorporation, was to "outlaw nagging, unreasonable demands for explanations of husbands' spare time, breath smelling and examination of husbands' apparel for powder, lipstick and blonde tresses."

Not only, alas but alack, has a certificate just been filed to dissolve the association with the Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds, but the 150 members have quit their altruistic effort to "civilize their wives..." Wm. L. O'Brien, former secretary-treasurer of the organization, explains that first it was going strong, but "it broke up little by little, and gradually fell apart. It was started as a gag, but we had lots of fun with it." He adds:

"Surprisingly enough, once we got started here we received letters from all over the country from like-minded husbands who wanted to start their own chapters. We met once a month at least in the back room of a tavern to plot war on nagging wives. A favorite tactic was to remove the automatic washing machine from a member's house and replace it with a tub and scrubboard, as a penalty for nagging."

The wives so "penalized" probably didn't see any humor in it—that's probably the reason the reform effort failed.—G.P.

Figures Prove Growth

Salem was surprised one day only a few weeks ago to discover that Eugene had overhauled it in population to become Oregon's second city on a census basis. It was unofficial then, but now it becomes official, with the State Census Board estimating Eugene's population at 46,480, and Salem's 46,313, a difference of 167.

In a list of population estimates for Oregon cities made public by the board are other figures that will surprise a lot of Oregonians.

They are the second surprise in seven years. The first, a disappointing one, was the Federal Census in 1950, which showed that nearly every city in Oregon, from Portland down, had fewer people than had been estimated locally. Now comes the State Census Board with figures on the optimistic side, showing that nearly every city in the state has grown in population since 1950, the gains ranging from fractions to as high as 130 per cent. Eastern Oregon cities as well as those on the west side are included. Oregon is growing.

Of course the Federal Census was presumed to be an actual count of noses, while the state board's figures are estimates, but

there is no reason to doubt the reliability of the estimates.

The main purpose of the annual estimates by the State Census Board is to determine allocation of funds on a per capita basis to the cities from state highway and liquor revenues. Legislation sponsored by the League of Oregon Cities brought about this sharing of funds with the cities, and is one of the League's many constructive accomplishments. The 10 per cent of highway revenues going to the cities is mainly for street maintenance and is known as a street fund.

Allocations to the cities are made twice yearly. The 1956 total for the current fiscal year was \$6.52 per capita, or \$5,453,933. The total shows growth each successive fiscal year.

Federal School Aid

Federal school financing legislation has an appearance of being dead for this session of Congress, but there is some doubt about it.

Some advocates of the legislation say it is dead—a victim of the economy drive. But the more alert of the opponents of the bill say they aren't going to be fooled, that the bill is just lying doggo and may spring to life any time its opponents can be caught flat-footed.

They say the bill's supporters are just trying to pull a fast one to lower resistance and retard expressions of public opinion.

The bill is with the House Education and Labor Committee, and its opponents will be less than good politicians if they don't keep an eye to that quarter.

RAY TUCKER

'Cradle to Grave' Plan Goes Haywire

WASHINGTON—The author of Britain's famous "cradle to the grave plan," which has been copied so extensively in this country, now admits that it has deprived him of sufficient income for his old age. He says that the resulting inflation of wages and prices has far outweighed the benefits of government handouts and social services. He admits that his grandiose program has "gone haywire."

Lord Beveridge's public admission of failure has aroused keen interest in Capitol Hill, where it has been almost required reading since he delivered his sensational speech. For conservative Republicans and Southern Democrats insist that President Eisenhower's financial and economic policies will eventually have the same disastrous effect in the United States.

British Peer's Admission

Roosevelt-Truman aides frequently compared the New Deal reforms to Lord Beveridge's achievements under the Attlee-Bevlin Labor Ministry. Indeed, in jests not printable in a family newspaper, they used to boast that they had progressed far beyond his "cradle to the grave" arrangements.

Since President Eisenhower has continued and even expanded his predecessors' social and economic services, Capitol Hill critics now cite Beveridge's admission as living and demonstrated proof of their arguments.

But the British peer's complaint, which echoes King Lear's lamentations over his ungrateful children, will have greater effect on Congress than domestic political oratory and condemnation. For the optimistic originator has now repudiated heavy government spending as a means of maintaining the economy, bolstering purchasing power and providing full employment.

Increased British Wages Blamed

As if in answer to Walter P. Reuther's demand for a four-day working week with five days' pay and other wage gains, Lord Beveridge attributes his present plight to the persistent and spiraling increases in British wages and the inflationary effect upon the consumers, including the workers themselves.

Prime Minister Harold Macmillan's warnings during Britain's recent strikes confirm the Beveridge indictment. Macmillan pointed out that the rising wage scale, even though low by American standards, had reduced exports by making British goods too expensive for overseas buyers. And he noted that England can survive only by exporting more than she imports.

Beveridge's Threnody

In short, Beveridge's threnody seems to be a criticism of many of the social and economic policies which some nations, including the U.S., have pursued for the last quarter of a century. Here is his sad tale:

"Most of my working life was spent in university services. When I left that service to become a politician in 1945, I was able to take with me for superannuation enough thousand pounds to feel fairly happy about my future.

"Now, each of those pounds is worth about 6s 8d (about \$1—Ed note). Like many other healthy people in the seventies, I am in danger of living longer than I can afford to live. Our plans for useful old age are all going haywire.

"The underlying reason for that is the claim of each industry to fix its own money wages by sovereign action. (He means strike action—Ed. note.) Under full employment, that is leading to destruction of the value of money, and is causing widespread poverty among all who are trying to live on savings or fixed pensions."

HAL BOYLE

Pawnbroker Says Women Spend Most

NEW YORK (AP)—If a diamond is a girl's best friend, a pawnbroker's best friend is that same girl—after she gets the diamond.

"Sixty per cent of our clients are women," said Lou Modell, who is known as "the pawnbroker's pawnbroker" and operates the nation's top individually owned hock shop.

"Why? Because women are notorious for being able to spend more money accidentally than men can on purpose."

Hock Expensive Jewelry

"Many rich women—even those with an income of \$50,000 or more a year—will hock a piece of jewelry for \$20,000, then take the \$20,000 and go out and buy another piece of jewelry with it.

"Divorcees borrow most often on their jewelry. Then wealthy wives. Widows come last.

"Career women aren't such regular clients because, to begin with, they usually are good businesswomen. Also, if they need money in a hurry, they usually have a boy friend they can borrow from."

Balled Out Of Jail

One of Modell's most unusual loans was to a titled lady accused of stabbing a gent with a jeweled letter opener.

"The next morning she pawned the letter opener for \$800 to bail herself out of jail," he remarked.

If they didn't have to pay it themselves, pawnbrokers would be highly in favor of the federal income tax. Right now their windows are full of diamonds pawned so the clients could keep from going into hock with Uncle Sam.

"Our busiest season is around income tax time," said Lou, who prides himself he will advance a hard-pressed executive up to \$75,000 in cash in five minutes—if the exec can put up enough diamonds for collateral.

Confidential & Fast

He explained many executives prefer to deal with pawnbrokers rather than banks because the transaction is so confidential—and fast.

The public has many misconceptions about that friendly fellow behind the counter in the store with the three-ball sign.

"Many have an idea that a pawnbroker is a blood-sucking shylock fattening at the expense of the poor," said Lou, and added wryly:

"Actually pawnbroking is a dying industry all across the country. For every new pawnbroker who opens a new shop, five go out of business. Small loan firms, which can charge a higher rate in many instances and have a lower overhead, are taking much of our trade. We average only about one per cent net return on our investment.

Business Is Bad

"Why should a man open a hock shop when he can make more with less risk by buying stocks and bonds?"

Although he estimated one out of every four people in New York patronize pawnbrokers, Lou said the high income class provide the best clientele.

"You can't make money on poor people," he said flatly. "They're not very profitable."

"The best client is the big-salaried guy who is a good liver, and enjoys wine, women and song."

Jewelers Buy Most

Lou said the idea that pawnbrokers make most of their profit by foreclosing on loans is exactly contrary to the facts.

"The last thing we want to do is foreclose," he said. "The foreclosure rate is only one out of 50 in our industry on clients who put up diamonds as collateral, and only one in 10 for those who pawn clothing."

"The operating theory is this, 'once a hocker always a hocker.'"

"But once you have to foreclose on a client you usually lose him forever," said Lou.

What occupational group most often makes the trek to Modell's own shop?

"Jewelers," said Lou. "They borrow on the jewelry they have so they can buy more jewelry."

QUITE A SHOCK

The same week we saw a whole trainload of combines, over a mile of them, and cogitated that any part taken from any model would fit and work on any other machine we read an article telling and showing pictures of the variation in human stomachs, hearts and other parts. Quite a shock.—Sherman County Journal.

A NEW IDEA

Closing postoffices Saturday isn't so bad where offices are closed that day. Otherwise it will handicap business. Maybe the government would let some management firm handle the postoffice.—Sherman County Journal.

WHO RANKS HIGHEST?

Labor has now opposed passage of Senate Bill 92 to do away with the automatic state property tax. We'll see who ranks highest with the legislators.—Sherman County Journal.

Typical Easter Season Scene



DAVID LAWRENCE

Wisconsin Supreme Court Actually Looked At State Laws in Union Segregation Case

WASHINGTON — Wisconsin's supreme court has just distinguished itself by doing something which just a few years ago would not have merited any notice whatsoever.

The court actually examined the laws of the state of Wisconsin and couldn't find anything in them that says unions must accept Negroes in their membership.

So the court decided that, while it is just too bad that such discrimination exists, it isn't a violation of the law of the state nor of the fourteenth amendment to the constitution of the United States.

Now, the members of the supreme court of Wisconsin could have reached the opinion around the world and found many a writer on sociological subjects who would have told them that failure to include Negroes in a voluntary organization is psychologically bad and creates a feeling of "inferiority" among those who are the victims of discrimination. The court could have said that sociology is more important than law and that times have changed anyway and that the fourteenth amendment should be construed as requiring prohibition of any form of discrimination.

Stayed With The Law

The supreme court of Wisconsin, however, didn't do or say any of these things because the six justices, led by Judge Timothy Brown, who rendered the opinion, simply felt that they were bound to stick to what the law said and, if it omitted anything, they were not supposed to supply it. True enough, Judge E. T. Fairchild, the sole dissenting judge—who perhaps will be regarded by some observers as more "modern" than the other justices—did say the remedy would be supplied anyhow by the court. He wrote:

"To be the butt of social discrimination is unpleasant in high degree, but to be denied the economic opportunity to work out one's destiny as best he can, solely because of a racial or a religious difference, impairs the very substance of citizenship itself."

Wrong Must Be Righted

"Perhaps the degree of the impairment is so great and the character of the rights impaired so fundamental that the wrong must be recognized and remedied by the judicial branch even in the absence of action by the legislature."

Judge Fairchild is at least candid about what he would do. He has behind him, of course, the precedent established by the supreme court of the United States, which in the desegregation decision of May 1954—brushed aside rules of law, precedents and previous decisions of the same court and decided the case on a sentimental basis.

Decision on Sentiment

But most judges feel they are bound by rules of law. It was Adolf Hitler who ordered his judges to decide cases on the basis of sentiment and not rules of law. There have been many instances of judicial usurpation in many countries based on the same theory.

If the people of Wisconsin, of course, want to end discrimination by organizations described as "voluntary," they can do so by a constitutional amendment. Indeed, the argument made in the majority opinion in the Wisconsin case notes that the fourteenth amendment to the federal constitution contains nothing to restrain a labor union from discriminating in the matter of membership on any ground it pleases. Judge Brown pointed out that, from the language of the fourteenth amendment, "it would seem to be clear that only discrim-

ination by state action is within its contemplation." He added:

Present Practice Private

"The present discrimination is by private persons acting privately. It cannot fairly be said to be the action of the state and, therefore, its practice is not prohibited by the fourteenth amendment."

If the supreme court of the United States upholds that interpretation, it means that bus lines operated privately or schools or social clubs which exclude persons for racial or religious reasons are on safe ground in doing so. If, on the other hand, the highest court in the land says that even "voluntary" organizations cannot discriminate on a racial or religious basis, then the way is opened to compel all labor unions, as well as those exclusive clubs which enjoy

some measure of tax protection, to admit anyone otherwise qualified.

Difficult to Decide

What will make the case particularly difficult to decide when it reaches the top court in Washington is the sanction given by the Taft-Hartley act to the modified "closed shop," otherwise known as the "union shop." Under this law, the employer is compelled to hire any new employee who doesn't join the union in 30 or 60 days.

Where the "union shop" provisions are operative in Wisconsin's industries and Negroes are barred from union membership, they can actually lose any chance whatsoever for employment in their trade unless the people of Wisconsin, either by legislative action or constitutional amendment, choose to remedy the situation by prohibiting such discrimination.

DR. WILLIAM BRADY

Contradictory Statements on Alcohol Use Found in Book

Medical literature is nowadays so padded with tired repetitions, contradictions and absurdities that the student who is not skeptical of authority may be badly misled.

Contradiction More Clear

If you will look in the eleventh edition on page 64 and 65 this apparent contradiction will, I think seem clearer.

"This didn't appraise me—the 10th edition was barely two years old at the time. The contradiction was clear enough in the 10th edition. I wouldn't give a nickel for the 11th edition."

It is quite conceivable that alcohol acts as a stimulant upon other functions of which, as yet, we know very little, as, for example, the ability of the body to resist infection.

I am sorry that this divergence etc. etc.

Very truly yours,

Stiff Shot Won't Help

There was not, then, and there is not now any scientific evidence to believe that alcohol aids the body in the way the professor imagined. On the contrary, there is scientific evidence that alcohol impairs the body structure, decreases the processes of immunization, diminishes the power of the tissues to heal, increases susceptibility to infection, and increases the mortality rate from pneumonia.

People who like their liquor—and that's a lot of people—generally prefer to believe the stuff has medicinal value and that a good stiff "shot" of whiskey or brandy is good for whatever ails you; that wine is good for anemia, or "for the stomach's sake"; and that beer is—well, I don't know—I haven't been watching TV lately and there are no billboards in our neighborhood. Doctors who like theirs are people too.

Dear Doctor Brady:

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your courteous letter of the 10th edition, I felt cheated, so I asked the distinguished Professor of Therapeutics how he reconciled these teachings. I received a reply, which seemed so typical of the mumbo-jumbo of modern medicine, that I pasted it in the chapter on Alcohol in the textbook. It reads as follows:

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BEN MAXWELL

News From an Earlier Day

April 17, 1951
Officials of Continental Chemical Co., subsidiary of Ray-O-Vac were in Salem to consider expansion of their new west plant, formerly the Salem Alumina plant on Cherry Ave. (This plant designed by Chemical Construction Co., to produce alumina from clay cost approximately \$5,500,000 to build. Necessary for the plant was abrogated by suppression of the submarine menace in the Caribbean Sea before the first shovel of earth was turned at a ground breaking ceremony, Jan. 22, 1944. A very limited amount of alumina for clay was produced by the plant in an experimental way.)

Salem had accepted an invitation to join with other cities in welcoming the return of Gen. Douglas MacArthur to the U. S. mainland after an absence of 14 years. Mayor Al Loucks had urged all citizens to display flags at their homes and places of business.

During 1950 the FBI had reported no murders or non-negligent homicides in Salem. But their report did show five robberies, two aggravated assaults, 103 burglaries, 55 larcenies involving sums over \$50, 472 under \$50 and 63 auto thefts.

Cornerstone for Salem's First Christian church had been laid at Marion and North Cottage street in a ceremony that attracted sev-

eral hundred laymen and clergymen. (Christian church in Salem was organized during July of 1867 and a church costing over \$6000 was dedicated Sept. 4, 1867 by Elders G. W. Richardson and S. C. Adams. The Sunday school was organized during February of 1871.)

Roby Laughlin Gemmill, former Capital Journal society editor, had become society editor of the Press Democrat, Santa Rosa, Calif., newspaper.

PAY YOUR FUEL OIL BILL BY THE 10th

To enable your dealer to continue your monthly charge service
CREDIT ASSOCIATION SALEM FUEL OIL DEALERS

April 26, 1948