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**Looking at  
 WASHINGTON**

**LOOKING AT WASH—  
 A QUARTER OF A TRILLION  
 DOLLARS**

The national debt is now about \$275 billion and is expected to grow even larger. Already Congress has found it necessary to revise the law which fixed a ceiling on the national debt nine times—number ten coming up!

The history of our national debt started in 1790 when we had a deficit of \$75 million. In 1835 our debt reached its low point in history of only \$37 million. The national debt topped the billion dollar mark in 1863 during the Civil War.

During both World Wars the national debt rose sharply. Now it is so high that the average person has no idea what is meant when we say that the national debt has risen to more than a quarter of a trillion dollars. As a matter of fact, we don't know what it means either.

**NON-MILITARY SPENDING**  
 Most of the people of the United States can understand the increased cost of military spending. They are willing to pay additional taxes to combat communism and to protect our American way of life.

What worries the average citizen is the fact that non-military spending by the Federal Government has increased greatly. For instance, in the fiscal year 1946 the total non-military spending was about \$5 billion, but the administration is asking for non-military spending in fiscal 1953 about \$10 billion.

The unfortunate truth is that since Mr. Truman became President, there has only been one fiscal year, 1951, in which government spending (not including military spending) did not increase over the previous year.

Of course, all of us are aware of the fact that inflation has sent the cost of government up, as well as the cost of living for each individual. We are also aware of the fact that the increased cost of living has made it necessary to pay government employees higher wages. All this, however, does not explain why there has been no concerted effort by the administration to support a program of economy. Too often, self-styled liberals think that liberalism is synonymous with spending, and even conservatives are opposed to economizing in their own home-balliwicks.

**ODE FROM A PUBLISHER**

How dear to our hearts is the steady subscriber,  
 Who pays in advance at the birth of each year.  
 Who lays down the money and does it quite gladly  
 And cast round the office a halo of cheer.  
 He never says: "Stop it, I cannot afford it,  
 I'm getting more journals than now I can read."  
 But always says, "Send it, all readers like it—  
 In fact, we all think it a help and a need."  
 How welcome his check when it reaches our sanctum,  
 How it makes our pulse throb, makes our heart dance.  
 We outwardly thank him, we inwardly bless him—  
 The steady subscriber who pays in advance."  
 —Exchange in the Cranston (R.I.) Herald.

**Economic Highlights**

A person who makes a practice of reading the political commentators and prognosticators can find just about any forecast he is looking for. These publicists, like all the rest of us, have personal prejudices and hopes which cannot help but color their writings. Feeling is running very high now as the political campaigns gain momentum and the time for choosing the candidates draws near. But in reading the prophecies of things to come, there are certain areas in which there is more

and more agreement on the part of writers of all schools of thought. Summed up briefly, these are:

First, Senator Taft will be the Republican candidate. It isn't in the bag by any means, but he is far ahead of the field. His organization is a model of determined, professional efficiency, and the Senator has drawn enthusiastic crowds and made an excellent impression during his extensive travels about the country. The General Eisenhower boom is in the political doldrums; it lacks both direction and momentum. Whether it is possible to breathe new life into it is the big question. Some of the General's keenest supporters have warned that his chances are dead unless he acts decisively on his own behalf. He has shown no inclination to do that.

Second, President Truman will run again. There are various reasons why this idea is now current in most quarters. No other available Democrat, in the view of the Administration experts (has what it takes—the Kefauver candidacy, for instance, has aroused much less general enthusiasm than was hoped by his friends. Thus, Administration insiders are in a position to argue that it is the President's clear duty to run again and save the country from the GOP. On past occasions, Mr. Truman has intimated that there is no one he would rather run against than Senator Taft. Moreover, the President has a very strong sense of historical destiny, and seems totally convinced that his fair deal program, spurned as it has been by Congress, is what the people want and will vote for. He has a definite program and he will fight for it. Finally, he may feel that the disclosures of graft and corruption in administration agencies make it necessary for him to seek personal justification from the voters.

Third, if it is a Taft-Truman contest, the decision will be a fairly close one. After 1948, no one with good sense discounts Mr. Truman's abilities as a vote-getter. And no one knows just how many Truman votes may have been lost because of the scandals, high taxes, the conduct of the Korean war, the communists-in-the-government allegations, the battle over Secretary Acheson, the MacArthur dismissal, and so on. As past experience at the polls shows, there are more Democrats than Republicans in this country now, and the balance of power is held by "independent" voters who account for perhaps 30 per cent of the total. If a Republican is to win, he must swing that vote. The Democrats have been swinging it for years.

That is the concensus today, among the people who are considered political experts and who, for all the mistakes they make, are right more often than they are wrong. Before long we'll know how right or wrong they are this time.

**THIEF LEAVES TRAIL—**

New York—A cop, spotting a broken store window, followed a trail of coins until he came upon the "burglar," a 9-year-old boy, who was carrying a bag full of coins which were dropping out one by one. The boy had smashed the window with a hammer and taken \$150, mostly in small change from a March of Dimes "wishing well."



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**SMART DOG—**  
 Trenton, Mo.—While Queenie is not on the payroll, she's an alert worker at the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad yards here. Queenie, the dog, works with Augusta C. Kroeger, inspecting trains. When she spots a hotbox or an airbrake line leak, she signals the carmen with loud barking and stays there until help arrives.

**CART CRUSHED. BABY SAVE—**  
 Cleveland, O.—A parked four-ton truck rolled into a baby carriage, crushing it under the front wheels. Inside the cart was 10-week-old baby apparently was unhurt.

**ON WBONG LOT—**  
 North Adams, Mass.—Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Polmatier bought two lots and built their own home last summer. Recently, they were informed that they had built on a lot owned by the city instead of one of their own. They are trying to buy the city lot.

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**LIGHTS SMOKE—BOOM!**  
 Hasbrouck Heights, N.—While driving his car, Harry Vallow lit a cigarette and—his car burst into flames and crashed into a tree. Vallow suffered serious burns before he could leap from the auto. Police believe the cause was leaking alcohol fumes from a warm-air heater.

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**... and THIS will be the kitchen**

NO, SHE ISN'T RUSHING THINGS. The time to provide for appliance outlets is when you first plan your home.

DON'T "SHORT-CIRCUIT" yourself by having too few circuits. Avoid blowing out fuses. Inadequate wiring from the start will result in expensive alterations later.

SEE YOUR ARCHITECT and electrical contractor about the wiring that will service appliances you have now—and those you hope to have in the future.

Have enough circuits! Have enough convenience outlets and switches—and locate them conveniently!

**"SEE YOUR ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR"**